

Before It's Too Late

by Yoshizawa Ayumu

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Summary: Shinpachi's parents murdered. Suspicious men seeking for his sister. "Remember me..please.." .. "I will protect you!" .. "I love you for eternity and beyond." "..maybe in our next lives..we can be together." YoshizawaWorks DO NOT COPY [Undergoing construction works]

1. One 1

[Revised Version]

I DO NOT OWN HAKUOUKI OR ANY OF THEIR CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC,YUI!

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><p>~Reader's POV~

_ 'In the beginning,it was all black and white.' _

Black and white? I wonder..how was it just _black and white
_then.

It was red. Blood red. Speckles of black dotting my sight.

I froze in fear. My forehead and hands felt clammy. My face turned pale white.

The sword rose and cut down their bodies in a flash before I could even blink. Blood sprayed across the walls,painting them red. Drops splattered onto my white nightwear.

_Their.. Who was 'their'? _

The fallen bodies laid there. Not moving. Not breathing. Not screaming.

My parents.. Gone.

I gripped onto the skirt of my clothes. My chapped lips trembling. But my head was in a blank. My heart in a swirl of emotions.

They approached me, just like how a predator does. Their cold and merciless eyes fixated on me.

Feelings started to pulsate through my veins. A mixture of agony and hatred.

I cried out agonizingly, grabbing a vase nearby and smashed it against one of the murderers.

He cried out in pain, falling on his knees and fell over, unconscious.

I took up his katana and swung it around, attempting to slaughter those beasts that preyed on my family.

Then I saw.._ them._

Three men. Killing off every single attacker.

They walked towards me. Their eyes glowed in the dark.

Come with us, that was what they said.

Relying on my instincts, I faked an attack on the red-eyed one and sprinted out of the house with nothing but the dirty katana used to slay my parents. Nothing but a sleeping kimono worn.

The beginning. Sure wasn't full of rainbows. It was also not black and white.

It was just **blood red.**

* * *

><p>I wandered along the empty and quiet streets of Kyoto. Well, not really so around the red light district.<p>

Oh wait, let me backtrack a little. I just remembered that I forgot to introduce myself.

I am Yui. Nagakura Yui. I'm 18 years old. Mahogany colored hair in a side ponytail. Bangs swept to the left. Eye color? Pink. Wearing a lilac colored vest over my clean white kimono shirt, and a brown hakama with a black and pink colored bandana worn on my head. A katana worn on my right, my vest hidden with a few blades.

Oh yeah, previously I had nothing except for that disgusting sword and dirty nightwear. How did I get all these? Right, let me back track a little more.

So basically, that night I slept in the forest. Well actually, I slept up in the tree that was close towards the forest. And I saw some bandits lurking around. And I thought, why not? And I beat them up and tada, I got all these!

No? Not convinced?

...

Fine, a nice Samaritan saw me and took care of me. Washed my wounds, gave me a place to rest, new clothes, food. There, I said it. Tch, my Nagakura pride all gone.

Hey, don't look at me like that! My family, the Nagakura's, are prideful, and vain, people alright?

Anyways, I managed to get on a boat and travelled around till I finally got here. Kyoto.

Why am I here? Uh.. Finding an elephant with lumpy fats and a large ass. Its name is Nagakura Shinpachi. Nope. Not a human. An elephant.

Strolling through the dark alleys, I heard shifting and shuffling of footsteps.

"Why, what a pretty man." A drunkard staggered towards me, pulling his heavy arm over my narrow shoulders while his friends jeered him on. "M-Maybe you are actually a girl! Now, n-now let big brother take a l-look for yer' "

Before that man could even touch the collar of my clothes, I flipped him over and nailed him onto the ground swiftly with the use of my hidden blades.

"Dammit! You bloody bitch! Yer gonna get 't from me!" His friends perked up from their drunkenness and unsheathed their katanas threateningly.

I sneered at them, my eyes darkening dangerously. Unsheathing my own blade and in 3 slices, I cut them all down, flicking off the remaining drops of blood off my blade and sheathed it back.

"Hmph.. good for nothings." I walked off, hidden in the shadows. "...Now where is that elephant's headquarters."

* * *

><p>-Ayu<p>

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2. Two 2

**[Revised version]**

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS. I ONLY OWN MY OC, YUI!

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><p>Remember those times when we were pure and free? What happened? Reality tainted us.

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

As an 18 year old teen walking around in circles in the bustling streets,it really does not work out. Especially when I have little change and had a grumbling stomach to answer to.

Plus I had suspicious looks and glares casted towards me. Well,I wouldn't blame them. Who wouldn't be suspicious of a hooded figure roaming around the streets for like hours,without even doing anything? Then again,it must be because I was too beautiful- ah I mean,handsome for words and they are jealous. Alright,I will go with this reason instead.

Oh yeah,how I got the cloak? I stole it,for real this time. I needed to conceal my identity so no other men will come searching for me and ,probably,kill me. And it gave me the opportunity to pickpocket the wealthy ones too. What? Don't give me that look! I need to survive as well!

Plus I didn't want people to approach me and annoy the shit out of me. It's just not the day to do so.

The bustling street,filled with crowded shops and various goods laid out. The fragrant aromas filled the air. There were many people. Merchants,shop owners,citizens,rogue samurais. Though many were families.. _Families.._ I felt my heart clenched painfully,a lump forming in my throat.

The innocent and carefree laughter of children rang in my head as parents called out to them in a doting voice.

_I used to be happy and oblivious,_I gritted my teeth,my head facing downwards and fasten my pace to get out of that area.

That cold night. That red night. Robbed my innocence.

I shut out the noises emerging from the crowds and made my way out of the crowd smoothly. Far away from the crowd,I slowed down my pace and stopped in my tracks.

Unknowingly,my hand reaches up to my neck as an ominous emotion swirled in my heart. I gripped onto my neck slightly and took deep breaths till the emotion was suppressed.

It was an ugly emotion. I felt like I was losing control of myself and on the verge of giving in to the emotion. It was full of hatred and lust. It made me felt like a beast. _Like those beasts that night._

The images of my parents' dead bodies flashed past. Those looks of horror and agony. The look of fear and desperation. The pleadful expression for help. They were all expressed in their wide,unblinking eyes.

Not wanting to remember anything else,my hands reached up to my head,shaking my head anxiously. I kneeled forward and curled myself,to rid the vivid images of that fateful night and the screams and shouts. The sounds of ripping flesh and the warmth of their blood

on my skin.

Shakily, I rested my right hand against a nearby wall, cold sweat trickling down my face as a burning sensation is felt in my lungs. I groaned in pain as my vision started to get hazy. Taking short and desperate breaths, my left hand wiped my face slightly, my head feeling like it was going to explode. Fumbling around my pockets, my trembling hands managed to pull out a medicinal packet, tearing it desperately and gulped it down my parched throat. My left hand hung loosely by my side with my forehead resting against the back of my right hand.

Feeling much better, I finally stood up straight and dusted my cloak. Feeling better with the exception of the medicine, of course. It was really bitter and disgusting. Tasted like the sewers. No, I did not taste the sewers before! Who would taste the sewers? You know what? Just ignore what I have just said. I take back my words.

Back on track, I made a couple of turns till I saw a huge mansion before me. At the gates, there were 4 soldiers on guard. Wearing light blue haoris, ew. I'm sure my outfit looks much better than..that.

Gazing at the area, a light smile graced my lips before it disappeared, regaining my stoic look. _The Shinsengumi's headquarters._

Boldly taking a step forward, I attempted to enter the premises. Key word: 'attempted'. The 4 guard soldiers held up their katanas and blocked my path.

"Halt! No one enters the Shinsengumi's premises! Leave if you value your life!" One of the soldiers snubbed.

" May you then get one of your captains, Nagakura Shinpachi, out here so that I can talk to him." I calmly replied. It wasn't a request. It was an order. I'm rather audacious, right? I'm proud of it too.

" Why should we listen to a suspicious looking man?" The second soldier snarled, his blade pressing against my neck, a warm drop of liquid trickling down my neck. My eyes darken at the metallic smell.

Sighing, I removed the hood of my cloak. I shot a sharp look at them, causing them to flinch slightly.

"It was not a request. It was an order." I tapped onto my hilt threateningly. "I would like to have no blood shed just because of this."

"What is going on? Why are all of you chattering instead of guarding?" A cold and sharp voice cut in as the guards immediately saluted him.

The man had long black hair tied up in a ponytail, violet orbs with a stern expression. He wore a purple kimono top with a grey hakama.

Seeming to have noticed me, he gave me a cold glare and crossed his arms.

" Who are you?"

"I'm here to find one of the captains,Nagakura Shinpachi. Please get him out here so I may talk to him personally." I calmly responded though I was freaking out at the scary looking man.

"Tch. This isn't the place where you can visit my men freely. Who are you?" He scoffed. I gave him a death glare of my own.

"I do not wish to have any blood shed," I paused for a while,my hands holding onto the hilt warningly. " But if you must know.."

"Nagakura Yui. That's my name."

* * *

><p>I had to rewrite this twice because I forgot to save it.<p>

-Ayu

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3. Three 3

[**[Revised version]**]_

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC,YUI!

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><p>I know it's not easy for you, living this life, but try to remember, always try to remember, you're not the only one with troubles.

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~**

Silence remained as high tension remained hung up in the air. I remained as stiff as ever,my face free from expressions. I was not going to let my guard down at any point. Even if they were my brother's comrades and friends for years.

The commander,vice-commander and secretary-general sat before me. The commander was smiling awkwardly,trying to hopefully ease out the tension. His name is Kondou Isami,a middle-aged man with short dark brown hair tied up in a top knot and sparkling light brown eyes. But,I sighed inwardly,he seems to kind and jovial to be a good leader.

The vice-commander would be Hijikata Toshizou,the man who I had 'spoke' to previously. He seemed more like the commander to me,as compared to the other. Especially with his cold and hostile glare from before,I shuddered slightly at the image. Currently,he's just staring me down harshly and carefully analyzing me,like a hawk. I feel naked under that stare.

The secretary-general is Keisuke Sannan, a man around Hijikata's age, chin-length dark brown hair with hazel eyes. He seemed scholarly since he wore glasses. Despite the smile he sent to me, I could sense the look of skepticism beneath his facade. He himself gave off the aura that I should stay far far away from him. Oh yes, I will.

Sitting around me are the rest of the captains. Well, most of them, with exception of my idiotic brother and his friend. Seriously, that man has that ability to not show up at times when I needed him to.

"So..Nagakura Yui, am I right?" Kondou cleared his throat and gave me a fatherly smile.

Feeling rather annoyed at his question, I immediately snubbed him back in response.

"Sir, I believe that you have asked me this question over 6 times for the past few minutes. I'm pretty sure that your memory is not that bad, for a commander."

Blushing at my comments, he coughed slightly and apologized softly, feeling rather embarrassed and ashamed.

"Hmm, someone thinks that he can snub Kondou-san. You got guts, I'll have to admit. But you better watch your tongue, brat, or I'll kill you."

That would be Okita Souji. He's probably a few years older than me. He has emerald green eyes that sparkled with mischief and darkness, red-brown hair tied up in a similar fashion like Kondou. He has a cat-like smirk on his face, though his tone was dark and harsh beneath his attempt to make it sound as a joke. I don't like him already.

"I would respond the same way like this kid too. Who wouldn't feel annoyed to answer the same question again and again?"

That is Todou Heisuke. He is probably a year older than me, perhaps. He has the most beautiful teal colored eyes and brown hair tied up in a high ponytail. Trusting my guts, I believe that he's a good, if not best, friend of Shinpachi's. Why I think that way? Well, he's really friendly and look like he's easy to tease. And I trust Shinpachi's taste in friends. Not girls though.

"Eh? How is Heisuke calling someone else a kid?" A husky teasing voice rang out as the door shifted open. There revealed a redhead and a brunette. The brunette is my brother, Nagakura Shinpachi.

"Who's the kid?" As usual, he is really clueless and dumb when you needed him to be smart.

Acting nonchalant, I raised my right hand in mid-air with a poker face.

"Yo bro."

His blue eyes nearly bulged out from its sockets when he finally had

the brains and recognized me.

"Yui?! What are you doing here?" He shouted, his hands on his mahogany hair.

To be honest, we do look rather similar. Same colored hair but just different colored eyes. He also wore on a bandana, but green in color instead.

"I wanted to speak to you_ personally, outside_. Not until a particular _someone_ got me here." I placed emphasis on the word 'outside', at the same time shooting a cold glare at the vice-commander.

"And hello to you too, Sano-kun."

I knew the redhead since young. He and my brother went to the same dojo so I had seen him occasionally. He's called Harada Sanosuke, same age as my brother. His long dark red hair tied in a low ponytail, his dark amber eyes showing gentleness deep within. Shinpachi used to complain to me that Sanosuke always stole the girls from him. I don't deny it. He does have the charm.

"Long time no see, princess." He winked charmingly at me. I just rolled my eyes back.

"Wait. Wait. Wait! He's a girl!?" Heisuke and Kondou exclaimed in shock.

"Yeah, took you long enough to figure it out even though you managed to confirm my name for nearly 10 times." I replied dryly, sarcasm lacing my words.

"So, what brings you here, my little sister?" Shinpachi and Sanosuke sat down at their respective seats.

I bit onto my lips hard and gazed downwards, my fingers fiddling each other nervously. I could hear the beating of my heart loud and clear. I was still afraid. Afraid of the events that had happened.

"Well..." I slowly spoke out, trying my best to figure out the best way to break out the news. "Brother?"

I glanced up at him meekly, seeing him nod his head in acknowledgement to his name.

"Promise me that you'll keep your cool when I tell you the news."

My hands were clammy and were trembling. I unconsciously licked my chapped lips and felt that my throat was awfully dry. Taking a deep breath, I squeezed my eyes shut and formed my words slowly.

"Dad and mom... T-they are not on earth anymore."

"..Huh? What do you mean '_not on earth anymore'_? Yui, if this is one of your jokes, you better stop. It ain't funny." Shinpachi lectured me with a serious tone.

"A-about a week ago," I fumbled with my words, my hands clenched up into fists. "Our house was attacked in the middle of the n-night..

They were murdered."

**"WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?" **

* * *

><p>-Ayu<p>

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4. Four 4

**[Revised version]**

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC,YUI!

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><p>Just knowing you're not alone is often enough to kindle hope amid tragic circumstances.

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

Just keep your cool,I told myself. But how could I?

I. I was the reason,alone,why our parents were killed.

They were killed in the process of protecting me. Waves of guilt overwhelmed me. I couldn't even look at my brother in the eye properly.

"A few days before that incident,similar men approached us to take me away. Papa drove them away. But they would always come to our house without fail. That night,they barged into our house without warning. Those men..They shifted." I blinked back my tears and pushed back the images that formed in my mind.

"What do you mean by_ 'shifted'_"

" They... transformed into beasts. They were huge in size,blood red eyes,large canine teeth and large sharp claws."

"Tch. It's obvious that she's lying." Souji's voice cut in,his words igniting anger in me.

"...Oh?" I raised up my head and gave him a cold glare. "So you think that I'm lying. Would any stupid person get any stupider by lying about their parents' death? Oh wait,you."

" Watch it,you brat!"

"Souji! Enough. Let Yui continue her story." Kondou sternly commanded Souji who froze then nodded.

"A few other men came in. They ordered the beasts to..to tear our parents' from limb to limb." I gritted my teeth and shakily took in a deep breath.

" And they did. Those men held onto me,forcing me to watch the bloody scene before me. I saw how those beasts ripped out their limbs. No matter how many days went by,I could still remember those vivid images,their cries of terror and pleads for help.

Those men then released me. They approached our nearly dead parents and struck them,stabbing them continuously in the heart. Those beasts..They tore papa and mama's flesh and devoured it." Bile rised up my throat,my hands gripping onto each other tightly.

"Enough,Yui." Shinpachi hoarsely pleaded. He couldn't withstand it. The commander and vice-commander,themselves too,had a look of disgust and horror.

"I wanted to avenge papa and mama. So I smashed a vase against the nearest man. It didn't work out like how I had planned since I was outnumbered.

Then three other men arrived. Within a few seconds,those beasts and men were slayed by them. They asked me to follow them,and that I was one of them. I didn't know what to do. All I thought was that I had to run,I needed to find you and tell you what happened to our parents." I looked at Shinpachi,full of guilt.

"I'm sorry. If it weren't for me,papa and mama wouldn't have died.. I- please don't forgive m-"

Shinpachi pulled me into his tight embrace,caressing my head and uttered an apology.

He apologized for not being by my side then. That he couldn't protect me,papa and mama. That I had to witness all those and go through it alone.

I could feel his hot tears on my shoulder.

My big bro,though he is large in size and strong in physique,he would always be that softie deep inside.

Pulling away from his embrace,he wiped his tears and cleared his throat to redeem his manly,not,esteem and appearance.

" My little sister,what did you plan to do after telling me this?"

" Err.." Stunned,I fumbled around with my words,flinging around my arms and tried to find for the words that went missing in action at the wrong time. "Oh you know,moving around. Go here and there. Being an err mighty adventurer! Solving crimes,gettin' into gang fights,stuff. Yknow,a wanderer's thing-"

"You have no idea,don't you?"

"Damn you for being a Nagakura."

* * *

><p>-Ayu<p>

5. Five 5

__**[Revised Version]**__

__**I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! JUST MY OC,YUI,AND MY PLOT!**__

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~**

When it's my brother,there are definitely troubles,mostly involving me. Apparently he managed to convince the commander and vice commander to let me stay at the headquarters. I mean,that's not really a problem to me. But I wonder how did that end up to me and that annoying prick sparring right now. That's right,the annoying prick to my side AKA Okita Souji, the sass cat.

"Fuck this!" I cursed at him after bearing another heavy blow from him. Lemme tell you something. Behind his whole pretty boy appearance,he is no gentleman. Not like I was,yknow,staring at his face or something.. I mean like- ugh you get what I mean.

"Nee nee,Yui-chan." Souji sang as he attacked me from the side. "It's surprising to know how good you are."

"Oh really?" I huffed out,glaring at him menacingly. "I find it more surprising to have you to suddenly attack me like that."

He smirked and winked,"TouchÃ©."

It actually happened like this : I was just peacefully and quietly admiring the old cherry blossom tree in the courtyard of the headquarters when suddenly that idiotic cat thrust his katana at the right of my face,missing my ear by a few centimeters plus minus,give or take. And yes,out of defense,I just had to choose a broom that somehow laid at the side of my feet.

Irked by him, I gritted my teeth and ducked,sweeping him off his feet.

"Hey! What's that for!?" The emerald eyed man yelped and gave a threatening glare.

Returning to the usual stoic facade I wore, I just stood there and stare at him blankly. Hoots and cheers could be heard from the side where the other Shinsengumi captains,excluding my brother who went to cook, and Chizuru who stood. Ah,just to let you know,Chizuru is a female disguised as a man,just like me. She's the vice commander's woman,though they said otherwise,and I am currently sharing a room with her.

"Uwah! Sugoi! I've never seen anyone beat Okita-san in sparring before,except for Saitou-san." Heisuke yelled,his eyes sparkling in pure excitement and awe.

"She did not beat me." Souji snarled back defensively,obviously

angered by the comment. " She just cheated and went against the rules."

"Well that's true for sparring," Sanosuke rubbed his chin with a twinkle in his golden orbs. "But in the event of a real fight, she did win since she got your ass whooped."

" One more word and I'll-"

"Now now, I personally think that the both of you did exceptionally well." Kondou clapped his hands together, his eyes shaping into crescents. "Ah Yui-chan, you are a left hander too?"

"Hm." I forced out a reply. I mean, it was obvious that I am a left hander and by answering such a question would only make me feel stupid, but I didn't want to be rude to Shinpachi's superior. It doesn't benefit me either way.

"That's amazing!" Heisuke breathed out.

Wait, what? Amazing? Nah that's probably just me. Yep, I fell too many times and the dirt was causing me to hear wrongly. Yeah, that must be the reason. Laughing inwardly, I hit my ear several times.

"Hm, I wonder what the outcome will be if Yui-chan and Saitou-kun spar each other. It would be quite a sight to watch." Kondou pondered with Sanosuke, Heisuke and Souji agreeing.

I blinked my eyes then realized what they meant. Hajime was also a left hander like me..and he belongs to the Shinsengumi. I blanked out and blinked a few more times. Wait, so he is a left hander and he.. Weren't we supposed to be despised and ignored? How did that happen?

"-i! Nagakura Yui!" I jerked a little before looking at the barking Hijikita. I would have usually jumped up and scream, exaggerating how much it surprised me. But I don't want to show them my emotions, just yet.

"Eh." I replied him shortly, receiving a nasty look in return. I don't know if it was just me or did the temperature drop a lot more than it should.

"Ehm. As I was saying, I was suggesting that you would spar with Saitou-san. If you win or if we see the potential in you, you will join the Shinsengumi, under your disguise of course. We don't do charity work. After all, you are staying here for free."

I narrowed my eyes at him. And here I thought that Sannan was the shadow king of this place. I guess I was wrong.

"You have to admit," Sannan spoke out in his usual soft tone. "It is a rather good suggestion. After all, it is my idea."

I take it back. Sannan still reigns as the shadow king. No one can beat him.

Not seeing anything dubious about the arrangement, I shrugged my shoulders in agreement. But I guess the others did not approve of it, seeing how they yelled in opposition. Well, sorta.

"Hold on! Disguise!?" The men, well only Kondou and Heisuke, looked at me, flabbergasted. "You're a girl?!"

"I thought we went through this the previous episode. And which part of my name does not sound like one? My name is most definitely a female's. Go and get a grip." I gave them my special deadpanned look. "And it's not like that woman," I nodded my head towards Chizuru. "is a male."

"Is my disguise that bad?" Chizuru turned to Hajime with a disappointed look.

"...Most certainly that the weather is good today." Hajime looked away from her, purposefully ignoring her question. Chizuru just sweatdropped with her eyebrows twitching ever so slightly and laughed, awkwardly.

Just for introduction's sake, that is Saitou Hajime. He is about the same age as Okita Souji. His long indigo hair tied up into a side ponytail, his bangs swept across his face and covered his sharp yet relaxed ocean blue eyes. He's a left hander, just like me. Honestly, I would love to be able to spar with him. He seems like a person I could get along with. Better than that idiot cat.

"Ah Yui! There you are!" My brother's booming voice echoed as he walked towards my direction. "I was looking all over the place just for you!"

He pat my head gently and grinned.

"Hm? Well you found me now." I joked with him, revealing a slight smile. "So why were you finding me?"

"Ah, well I er.. The rice got a-"

"You messed up with the food again, didn't you?" I raised my eyebrow at him as he laughed, embarrassed, rubbing the back of his neck.

"Heheh, you caught me." I just facepalmed and sighed deeply. Putting my hands on my hips, I sent him a one of a kind smirk.

"Well then, onward my soldier. Lead me to the kitchen."

Chuckling, he saluted me and gestured me towards the direction where the kitchen was supposedly to be. "Right this way, mi'lady."

* * *

><p>At the kitchen:**

A burnt smell wafted out from the kitchen as I stood in the kitchen, my fingers twitching with an anger mark evident on the side of my forehead.

"Shinpachi.." I blinked my eyes many times, unable to comprehend the sight that laid before me. "How did that," I pointed towards a box of clean uncooked rice hidden behind a few other carton boxes. "become that?"

Saying that,I pointed towards a pot of undeniably extra burnt rice. Or so I thought that it was rice.

"I-it's not that bad!" My brother defended himself immediately. Giving him a deadpanned look,I took up the pot and flipped it over,banging it onto the kitchen table,only to have little burnt crust falling out.

"Oh really?" I replied dryly as he seemingly shrunk under my stare.

"I guess it is bad-"

"Because it is bad."

" At least I didn't burn down the entire kitchen!"

"No,you didn't. But you did burn this completely." I gestured towards a pile of black powder at the far end of the table. "I don't even know if it's a fish or a fish shaped vegetable."

Heisuke peeked up from Shinpachi's back and whistled.

"Damn,that is really bad."

"Shut up you damn brat! Wanna go under my fists again,do ya?!"

"Now now Shinpachi." The redhead walked over to my brother's side and pat his shoulder. "You have to admit that this is terrible."

Not caring much of the sudden presence of the rest of the captains,plus Chizuru,I sighed and quietly cleaned up the difficult-to-be-called-a-kitchen kitchen since it was getting on my nerves. Yes,I am a clean freak. Say whatever you want. At least I'm not a dirty person like some people.

"Shinpachi,I'm docking your pay." Hijikata's cold voice cut in as my brother's wails of horror followed after.

"Chizuru-chan,would you mind to prepare our dinner with whatever that is left? I would have say that with whatever you can salvage but.." Kondou chuckled slightly while rubbing his neck.

I guess she said yes,I didn't stay around to listen. I left the area and made my way up to the roof nimbly. Securing myself on the roof,I laid back and looked at the purple sky,watching the sun set,the sun glowing a brilliant red.

I guess you must be wondering why I behave- how do I say.. mm strangely. Like how cold and a bitch I am with the others,and with my brother,I act much nicer and friendlier. I'm just afraid. Afraid that if I'm close to them,they might backstab me. Afraid that if I get too attached to them,leaving would be too difficult. I guess,what happened to me and my parents had left a larger and deeper scar than I thought it would. Who am I kidding? Who wouldn't be traumatized to see some weird ass men chasing after you suddenly evolved into a disturbingly repulsive looking monster? I wouldn't even call them a beast because it would only insult the beasts greatly.

But I guess they aren't bad,asides that stupid cat. Heisuke seems fun and easy to talk to. Sanosuke seems like a brotherly figure since he somewhat acts like Shinpachi and I knew him since young. Hajime is quiet and I like it. Chizuru,huh I don't even want to get started on her. She's too naive and trusting,and awfully clumsy. But I guess,and hope,that she isn't that bad as I saw her to be. Hijikata is just.. I don't know how to describe him but I guess everyone would have gotten the same feeling as I did. Sannan is just plain evil and not trustworthy because I hate the way how his glasses glint at certain parts of the conversation. Kondou is just dumb,kind,naive,gullible,and dumber. He is definitely not a commander style and won't be exposed to reality if he keeps staying in that ideal world of his. And that's about everybody.

"Oi! Yui!" I sprang up in surprise,landing into a self-defense form before sweatdropping with my eyebrows twitching.

"Stop scaring me,ya redhead." I 'tch'ed at him before flipping myself off the roof and landed right in his sturdy,muscular arms.

"Well finally you are acting like yourself." Sanosuke wasted no time with his words,causing me to freeze up for a moment.

"I have no idea what you are talking about." I turned my head to side,away from him.

The next moment,my face kind of turned into a tomato. He held onto my chin and gently tilted my head to face him. His warm charming gold orbs hypnotizing me as heat rushed to my cheeks.

Yui,calm down. He is your brother's best friend! He's your second brother! Yep,that's it. Don't get flustered over it.

"Don't lie to me. Shinpachi might not notice but I can. It's very obvious and it hurts me to see you giving me the same treatment as the others." Sanosuke slightly caressed my flushed cheek. "What's wrong?"

I bit my lip then sigh,my gaze now fixated on the ground.

"It's just.." I mumbled softly,not really wanting to talk about it. "The death of my parents is just haunting me. If it wasn't for me,they wouldn't have died a gruesome death.. They wouldn't even have to die in the first place!"

Sanosuke gripped onto my arms comfortingly,sitting himself on the edge of the veranda with me across his legs and my head against his broad sturdy chest.

"Maybe it's because of that.." I fiddled with my fingers slowly,my thoughts drifting away. "I got scared. Fearful of what might happen if I trust or love someone too much,or get too attached to people. I might bring them harm or I might get hurt in the process if anything went wrong."

I didn't know if he could hear me at the last part or not,but being in his embrace did make me feel safe and secure. Like nothing will go wrong as long as I was with him.

"You know," I looked up at him to see him staring up at the sky.

"There are always people who will be there for you and protect you." He looked back at me and gave a soft gentle smile, placing his large hand on my head. "So don't go worrying about all those. You have me. And Shinpachi."

"Yeah.." I smiled slightly at the man. "Thanks Sano-kun."

"That's not enough."

"Eh?"

"I don't like just being thanked. A kiss would be much better." Sanosuke winked and took up my left hand and placed a kiss on it as my face heated up once again.

"But you're my brother's friend! I can't possibly-" Flustered by his gesture, I waved my hands frantically and stumbled over my words.

"Oi Sano, Yui!" Shinpachi stood behind us, looking rather annoyed. "Sano, don't you even dare to start flirting with my sister! You have all the girls in the red light district to flirt around so leave my sister alone."

Somehow, Shinpachi's words slapped me across my face harshly, my heart lurched downwards. I felt disappointed that I was just like any other girl Sanosuke flirted with. Wait, enough of these thoughts, Yui! You've already gotten past your childhood crush on him!

"I'm not flirting around, Shinpachi. And stop bringing up those issues!"

"Don't ya lie to me! That's what you usually do with those girls and after a while, you would have already charmed them by then and have them wrapped around your finger!"

"Which finger?"

"Your fucking middle finger!"

I immediately stood up and held onto my brother's arm, not wishing to listen to the rather nonsensical conversation.

"Shin-kun, I'm hungry!"

"Ah my beloved princess, that's why I'm here! I was supposed to call you for dinner. Now right this way, Yui."

"Nee, Shin-kun." I poked his arm as he led me to the dining room with Sanosuke following after. "Have you grown fatter? Because that's a lot of fats there."

"Yui!" Shinpachi exclaimed in horror. "How could you call these," He started to pose dramatically, flexing his muscles in different ways and styles. "fats!? You just insulted my lovelies! Wait, check this!"

Saying that, he immediately flexed his back muscles.

"Oh is this the dining room?" I opened a nearby door before Sanosuke pulled me away to the right room.

"It's this way,my kitten."

"Yui! Why do you do this to me?! And Sano,get your hands off her!"

* * *

><p>To say that dinner was fine would be a lie.<p>

Right now,it is deathly silent,asides for the sounds of chopsticks and the chewing of food. I guess it was because I was there and I was not the nicest- well to them at least.

"So,Yui-chan. Tell us more about yourself. We are interested to know more about you." Kondou initiated a conversation with me staring blankly.

"...I'm a female."

"Everyone knows that. That's boring." Souji piqued up,smirking ever so slyly.

"Oh? Maybe that is why I'm not surprised to know that you are a female."

"Hm. You're funny,I like that." He grinned though his eyes gleamed otherwise. "You better be careful or I'll kill ya."

"Threaten my sister and I will make sure that I'lll-"

"U-uhm.. Is my cooking to everyone's liking?" Chizuru stuttered,averting the others from the quickly escalating tension.

"Mm! Chizuru-chan,you really are a good cook! Here,Yui. You need to eat more! You look so tiny!." With that,he started to pile up my bowl with the side dish that I detested the most : pickled spinach with anchovies. Trust me,it tastes terrible just like sewerage. I guess it was due to the raw taste of the vegetables and the fishy taste from the anchovies. But either way,even if it did taste nice,I simply hate vegetables. End of story.

Wrinkling my nose in disgust,I used my chopsticks to pick on it,my appetite diminishing at full speed.

"Oi Shinpatsu! That's my fish! You have your own!" Heisuke started to yell and wrestle against my brother for the bony fish.

"It's mine now!" Shinpachi grinned mischievously and bit onto the fish head,swallowing down the bones. I scrunched up my face,feeling bile rising up my throat.

Not able to withstand it,I smacked my brother harshly on the arm.

"Don't do that. It's disgusting and unhealthy." Picking up my untouched fish carefully,I placed it in Heisuke's bowl. "Here,you can have mine."

"E-Eh?"

"Yui, you're not touching your food." Shinpachi frowned at me. I just shot him the usual cute smile that would always get him to melt and listen to me.

"I just feel tired. You can have my portion." I shifted my tray towards him slightly then bow towards the rest. "I shall go and take a rest. Please have a good meal."

I got up to my feet and left the dining room, closing the door behind me. Heaving a sigh of relief, I roamed around the compound in search for the kitchen. Even without a mirror, I could tell that I was getting very pale. My health was never good so I always look kind of sickly.

Anyways, I finally reached the kitchen and got a glass of water to drink with my medicine. I grimaced and coughed.

Now that I have taken my medicine, maybe I should go and explore the area again. I did find some places that were rather breathtaking.

Though I did say that I wanted to explore, I found myself arriving before the huge old cherry blossom tree in the courtyard, climbing onto it and hide myself between branches.

The view was simply beautiful. Looking up, you can see bright full moon and numerous stars decorating the dark sky behind the branches of cherry blossoms. With no one around, I finally had the chance to relax and allowed a small but sad smile grace my lips. My eyes fluttered as I stifled a yawn.

"U-Um, Yui-san.." I sat up and looked down to see Heisuke looking rather uncomfortable.

"Yes?" I jumped off the tree and landed before him. "Do you need anything?"

"W-well uh.." His face turned rather pink as he scratched his head. "I just wanted to thank you for just now."

"Just now?" I blinked and tilted my head.

"Y-you know, during dinner."

"Oh. It's nothing. I just wasn't hungry. There's no need to thank me for it, Todou-san." I blushed slightly and looked away. I wasn't used to being thanked for something so small.

"You can call me Heisuke! Todou just sounds so stiff." Heisuke brightly corrected me. "Besides, we are around the same age."

I smile at his words and nod. "Then please don't use '-san' after my name, Heisuke-kun."

"You know, you ain't that bad as you seem to be, Yui-chan." I laughed softly at his words.

"You as well, Heisuke-kun." I yawned once again and stumbled towards him, hugging him.

"Y-Yui-chan!?" Heisuke yelped and slightly jumped up while I nuzzled my face against his neck.

"Yeah?" My voice became smooth and sultry, a teasing smile played on my lips. My fingers touched his chest and slowly traced it up and down.

"Ngh- A-ah! Y-Yui-chan!" I gripped onto his face and smirked before locking my lips with his.

"Yui!" My brother ran towards me and threw me over his shoulder while Sanosuke shook the passed out Heisuke.

"Geez Yui." My brother huffed as he brought me to my room. "If you're tired, go and sleep! It's not like you don't know what you'll do."

Feeling much more tired, I just yawned in response and closed my eyes and drowsily drifted off to sleep.

* * *

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6. Six 6

**[Revised Version]**

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC, YUI!

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

I tossed and turned in my futon, sweat trickling down from my clammy forehead, muttering loud incoherent words before jolting up from the nightmare, breathing out heavily as I clutched onto my kimono where my heart beat rapidly beneath.

'What was that?' I muttered, running my fingers through my long hair.

''Kyo-chan~!''

A small smiling girl giggled as she jumped into an older looking boy's embrace, snuggling with the blushing male.

''I want to marry Kyo-chan when I grow up! And have many many many little children with you!''

The boy chuckled at her innocence and smiled lovingly at her, caressing her cheek ever so softly.

''Hai. I promise to make you my one and only bride when we grow older, ok RiRi?''

''Eung!''

The two kids smiled happily and sweetly at one another, and danced with their eyes expressing all their feelings for the other before a wave of fire dissolved the sweet image, frightening screams piercing through the innocent image and echoed in my head.

" Ugh.. Even if it wasn't the usual nightmare, I would still have nightmares huh?" I sighed silently.

Well, it certainly didn't seem like I would be able to go back to sleep since I am a light sleeper. Might as well head out to breathe in some fresh air.

Stepping over the sleeping female as quietly as I could, I sat closer to the door and propped my long mahogany colored hair in a side ponytail and changed into my normal attire : a lilac colored vest over my clean white kimono shirt, and a brown hakama with a black and pink colored bandana worn on my head. Grabbing onto my katana, I slid open the door gently and went out of the room to view the beautiful dawn.

Sitting on the veranda, taking the deep breath of fresh air, staring at the red sky with my fingers tracing the carvings of the sheath of my katana habitually. Anyone who sees me might assume that I'm someone with no troubles in her life at all.

I wish that was true.

A bitter smile crept to my face, my left hand reaching up to my neck again before it fell back to my side.

Oh right. Who was '_Kyo-chan'_ and '_RiRi'_? Have I met them? And that fire at the end... It seemed so... nostalgic for some reasons.

"Agh!" My head pounded and throbbed achingly as I tried to delve into my memories. I gripped onto my head in agony as I hit onto a mental block, barring me from recalling any pieces of recollections of the dream in my past.

"Are you okay?"

My eyes flashed with my senses in high alert and naturally spun around with a round house kick stopping inches away from the left hander's face.

"Oh, Saitou-san."

I lowered my leg and sat back on the veranda, my legs crossed.

"I apologize." I murmured out, turning back to gaze at the now pink sky.

"It's fine." Silence ensued between us as I mentally groaned at the stuffiness due to the awkwardness in the air.

Before the genius me, who finally thought of it to excuse myself to another isolated place, could leave, the forever looking calm man broke the silence.

" What are you doing so early in the

morning?"

"Thinking."

"..."

"..."

Silence fell upon us again before the male once again broke it.

"So,are you going to spar me later?" I could feel his intense ocean blue eyes on me which made me squirmed slightly. In case you didn't know,I don't like attention. I mean,not that I don't like attention but I don't like to be in the center of it. Does that err.. make sense?

"I guess. Shinpachi wouldn't have me to go anywhere else anyways." I smiled at the image of my brother whining for me to stay by his side and to let him protect me. "He's always so protective."

"I see."

We sat there not moving from our positions,just quietly and peacefully admiring the gorgeous sky.

* * *

><p>"Heisuke-kun? Breakfast is ready." I stood outside Heisuke's room,not knowing what to do with the lack of response.<p>

"Sheesh.. This is annoying. Why must she ask me of such a favor?" I grunted in annoyance and ruffled my hair. "Whatever,I'm coming in!"

I slid open his door only to be greeted by a sleepy Heisuke,looking all cranky with his sleeping kimono tied on loosely,revealing his muscular chest.

I flushed in embarrassment and looked away with a hand over my red face.

' 'G-good morning,Yui-chan! I-I- ah!" Heisuke jumped when he saw me and started fumbling with his words,his face turning much redder than mine within seconds.

"What's wrong,Heisuke-kun? Are you having a fever?" I leaned towards him and placed my hand on his forehead,only to see his fade darkening to another shade of red.

"I-dhjajdhishs!"

"Huh..?"

"L-Last night..u-uhm!"

"..." I tilted my head in confusion. Last night? What did he mean? Why was he so flustered by me?

Scratching my cheek lightly,I bit my lips and recalled the previous

night's events. I was talking to him and..and..

**Shit.**

I blushed and covered my face in horror, not knowing how to face him properly.

"I-I ah! I'm sorry!" I squeaked out, my ears tinted red as I gazed at him apologetically between my fingers. "It always happens when I get tired. I'm sorry!"

"A-Ah! I-er..uhm..mpff! I-It's okay!"

"U-uh well, erm b-breakfast is ready so.." I mumbled and dashed off away from his room.

* * *

><p>'Bang!'' The man banged his clenching fist on the table.

'Why aren't we taking any actions yet!? I need her by my side now! I need to protect her from those vermins!"

He demanded angrily as his grayish-blue hair swished in the air violently while he shook his head, pissed off by the man before him.

'I was finally with her...after so many years...yet she was out of my grasp, again! It's all those damn humans fault! And now there are those disgusting, vile creatures who think that they can lay their hands on my woman!'

'Relax Shiranui. Now that those dogs have taken her in, it'll make it much easier for us. We can't afford to make any mistakes, can we? Let us think of a plan before you can bring her back to your side and do whatever you deem."

Those red eyes gleamed dangerously as he spoke slowly. A sly smirk etched onto his lips as he picked up his cup of sake.

'...Then it better be done. Else I'll act on my own!'

The man stalked out of the room and slammed the door shut. Stopping right outside the room, he reached in his shirt and held out a necklace with a key charm.

"I'll get you back.. No matter what it takes." He muttered under his breath then clutched onto the necklace. "For now, I'll pray that you'll be safe."

"...Even if you don't remember me."

* * *

><p>I lied. I really can't help to write. **

**_And 43 days to my finals
:(_**

-Ayu

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7. Seven 7

[Revised Version]

**I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC,YUI! **

* * *

><p>~Third POV~

The sound of the clanging of swords reverberated in the air as the captains watched the scene unfold before them breathlessly.

It had been a while since they had seen such an intense fight against the Saitou Hajime for such a long period of time.

Yui and Saitou had been sparring yet neither one of them had the chance to attack and end the duel. As the duo are left-handers,they could easily predict each other's next step and swiftly block every attack. It was more of a dance than a spar as it should be. Their every one step were seemed to be choreographed,fighting each other with much ease ,smoothly and gracefully. No one could even predict who was going to win this.

'Yui,just give up!' Shinpachi yelled and not long after,gotten the famous punch on his head by Harada.

'She's your sister and you're asking her to give up? Baka!' Harada scolded.

'If she lose,she would have to leave the headquarters,ya know?'' Heisuke piqued in,only to see blood drained Shinpachi's face and his body deflate.

"E-eh!? Y-Yui! Win this!"

Not really bothered by her brother's discouragement,and encouragement,Yui herself had actually thought of saving her energy ,and to just leave the headquarters to find a place to live in ,instead of wasting it on this useless spar. But Yui being Yui,hated to lose especially in terms of swordsmanship and refused to lay her pride down.

Silently looking at the fight,Kondou and Hijikita nodded towards each other in approval. Even if she wasn't going to win,they were going to make her join them either way because she was really gifted. Okita smirked at the girl he had always tried to piss off for the past few days. It seemed like he'll have a fun time with her in the future. Just the idea of seeing her more had him grinning widely.

"Clang!" The loud sound startled the onlookers as they watched the mahogany haired female let her katana fall to the ground and walk away from Hajime.

" What are you doing,Yui!?" Shinpachi exclaimed in horror,slapping

his cheeks dramatically. "If you do this,you can't live in the headquarters with me! Like,yknow,ME!"

"I'm tired." Yui sighed and cracked her neck several times. "This was nothing but a waste of energy. And I was planning to leave anyways."

"WHAT!?" In came the outburst of exclamation from the baka trio.

"Whatever do you mean,Yui?" Kondou interrupted,his face all jolly looking.

>"You're going to join us all!"<p>

"REALLY?! AREN'T YA HAPPY,SISTER? WELL I DEFINITELY AM AND I KNOW YOU ARE TOO!"

"My,that's good news for me too! After all,I would get a new toy to play with."

" Shut up,dammit! My sis ain't a toy!"

"Yui? Did you hear me?"

"...Is 'no' an option?"

"Of course it is. You can say no,but you won't leave alive."

"Ah.. As expected from the demon vice-commander."

"Oi,Sannan-san."

The female sweatdropped at the bunch of males before her and just sighed in plain frustration. Yui crouched over to collect her sword when her eyes landed on a pair of feet before her.

'That was a good fight.' Saitou stretched out his hand for Yui to grab onto.

'Thanks,but you are much better.' The girl allowed a small smile to grace her lips softly at the indigo-haired man,taking his hand graciously.

>'Maybe one day you can teach me a few tips to be as good as you?''<p>

'Sure.' A faint smile graced the usually stoic looking samurai.

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

Gazing at the vast dark sky dotted with bright stars, I recalled the times where I had so much fun with Shinpachi,dad and mom.

We laughed. Played. Made a fool out of ourselves. We did all kinds of silly stuff that our neighbours named our whole family as the Jokesters. Our humor was kinda hereditary. Just like our prideful characters. Like they say,it's all in the genes. Well,asides for my illness of course..

I sighed softly. If there is a restart button for me to press,I would gladly press on it so I can go back to those happy days with my family,with no men to harass us,no monsters to-

'Yo.'

Shinpachi stood beside me at the edge of the veranda,his gaze also facing the sky.

' 'Sup.'

It was silent. No one made the first step to continue on the conversation.

'Are you thinking of dad and mom...?' He spoke softly as my breath hitched at his question.

It was a sensitive topic. For me. For him. For the both of us.

For me,I felt guilty. It was I who indirectly killed them. If I hadn't been there,those men wouldn't come to the house and kill them.. No,not kill. It was more of 'devour'. I instinctively closed my eyes at the sudden flash of image of those beasts ripping my beloved parents apart.

'Yea..'

We continued to remain silent,enjoying the light breeze that kissed our cheeks.

'Remember that time when you got a fish hook in your thumb and dad tried to take it out with another fish hook? In the end you had to go to the village doctor with two fish hooks stuck in your thumb.' I lightly laughed at that hilarious memory. Dad's facial expression was absolutely comical and dopey then when he showed Shinpachi's thumb with two fish hooks stuck to mum and I,saying 'Oops!' And mum lashed out at my dad who whined for mercy.

'Haha yea. That was horrible. Like,how did he even got that extra hook in my thumb as well!? Oh and he's also not meant to be a cook.' He mused as I chuckled at the yet another funny memory.

Dad wanted to celebrate family day together and cook a meal for all of us. In the end,the food was either uncooked or burnt,or sprinkled with too much salt or sugar or marinated with the wrong seasoning. In the end,our whole family had to throw away the food and eat out with dad sulking at the 'lack of appreciation for his dishes'.

'Mum was another case. She has a horrible memory.' I laughed at the image of our gentle yet very muddleheaded mum.

'I know right. She kept calling you by my name and vice versa,also mixing up your clothes with mine. Remember that time when I accidentally wore your kimono by mistake and it ripped? HAHAHA! And she forgets all about her cooking when she takes out our clothes to hang outside,in our backyard. Our house nearly got caught on fire." Shinpachi sent me a gagged look and the both of us burst out laughing.

'But dad,he was righteous and fair. He was a man of honor. He would make sure that we were treated equally. And he was fun too. He would tell us jokes and bring our whole family out to play. Mom was kind and forgiving. No matter how others treat her,she'll look at them with a sweet smile.' He lowered his voice.
>"I really missed them. Ever since I left to join Kondou-san and Hijikata-san."<p>

I looked down with my fists clenched,my heart twisted in guilt.

"Yui." He pulled me into his embrace,resting his chin on my head. "I don't blame you for their deaths. I know that you are holding in all your pain and definitely chiding yourself for causing it. But it wasn't your fault. Dad and mom would have agreed with me. If there's anyone to be in the wrong,it would be those people you have described that very night. Others may not believe you but I do,and always will."

Shinpachi lifted my chin up and smiled tenderly towards me,causing me to smile back,warmth filling my heart.

"Thank you,nii-chan. Mom and dad would be proud to know how matured you have become."

"That's right! ...E-Eh..? W-What are you implying!? I'm always mature, my baby sister!"

"..No I take all my words back. You're still the same."

"But you just said that-"

"I said to forget it!"

* * *

><p>Please leave some commentsideas below._**

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8. Eight 8

**[Revised Version]**

**I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC YUI!

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* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

Where am I? I wondered as I scanned my surroundings. They were all white and misty. My eyes squinted with my hand reached out hesitantly at the bright light before it overwhelmed my entire being.

'Kyo-chan! Wait for me ne? I wanna get my present for you!''

That voice! I quickly turned around ,only to find the same young girl from my previous dream.

'Hai,RiRi! You better come back to me or I'll hate you for abandoning me. I swear,Oguri Yui!'' The same little boy pouted with sulkily as the girl giggled and kissed his pout,leaving his face flamed red.

'I promise I'll be back Kyo-chan! I love you too much to leave you,Shiranui Kyo, ''

'Shiranui Kyo?' I mentally took note of the boy's name.

Strangely enough,his name is rather familiar.

"Shiranui Kyo.." His name rolled off my tongue smoothly,my heart racing at the sound of his name.

'Oguri Yui...' I bit onto my lower lip,frowning. Her name is the same as mine,just that our last names are different. I shrugged and pushed the thought aside. It's probably just a coincidence. The name Yui is quite common anyways.

Strangely, I felt a force urging me to follow after the little girl though there was an ominous feeling welling deep down. Well,not like it would hurt me or anything. Plus,I need to know the answer as to why she appears in my dreams.

Without giving much of a thought,I followed the young girl to a big mansion where she entered.

Woah! She's filthy rich. I gaped at the huge mansion that stood upright in great splendor. It was just so picturesque that I could just stare at it for hours and imagine how much more gorgeous it would be on the inside.

Murmurs started to build up,pulling my attention away from the mansion. It wasn't just any kind murmuring. They were loud and angry ones. Crowds of people started to gather around the mansion,carrying fire torches,weapons of all sorts, chanting and spewing vulgarities which I can't quite identify. All I could hear were noise. And it was..familiar.

A masked man suddenly threw his torch of fire towards the mansion,followed by several others.

'Wait!'' I tried to stop them but I was too late. The mansion was already set aflamed by the crowds,along with weapons aimed up in the air.

What were they thinking!? THERE IS A FREAKING LITTLE GIRL IN THERE AND WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE STILL IN THAT MANSION! Are they crazy!? I mean I can see that they are but- That- That's just horrible!

I tried to scream for help but my voice wouldn't come out.

Screams of terror and fright from the mansion filled the air as the chanting and cheers of victory became louder and louder.

Those screams and shouts echoed in my head but the only voice I could hear was that little girl's.

' 'Help! Kyo-chan! Papa! Mama!''

I tried hard to keep voices out of my head but the girl's screams of pain and shouts for help reverberated in my head,haunting me.

Suddenly,everyone became silent. I summed up all my courage to peek open my eyes.

Everyone was gone. They all laid on the ground,dead. I gasped in horror at the bloody sight. The mansion was burnt down to nothing but rubble,debris and dust.

I felt tears trickling down my cheeks at the horrible ending. Then,I heard footsteps. I looked up and saw a rather tall man,his long wavy violet hair tied in a high ponytail,donning on a tight-fitting black outfit that complemented to his chocolate brown skin.

Isn't that the man who was with the other two and helped me out that night..? I widened my eyes in recognition and looked at his actions in surprise.

He carried a bouquet of flowers and knelt before the ruins of the once beautiful house.

>He placed the bouquet on the ashes and bowed towards the ruins silently. I noticed something sparkling that trickled down his cheeks. I gasped when I realized what it was. He was crying.<p>

' 'Why did you leave me..? Why Oguri Yui? Why are you so cruel towards me!? WHY!? WHY!? WHY!? You promised.. You promised you would return.. How could you break your promise just like that..?' ' He yelled and punched the ground before sobbing helplessly to himself.

W-wait. He is that little boy?

I felt my heart tugged and wrench at the sight of him crying. I felt my body move voluntarily towards the male.

All too soon,he disappeared from my sight and darkness overwhelmed my whole being once more.

* * *

><p>I shot up from my sleep and gasped deeply,sweat trickled down my head as the dream flashed past once more.<p>

"Hmm.. Y-Yui-chan?" Chizuru's sleepy voice broke my train of thoughts. I turned to her with an apologetic smile.

"I'm sorry I woke you up."

"Mm it's okay. Did you have a nightmare?"

I paused,not knowing whether to call it a nightmare.

"Well-"

"Thump! Thump! Thump!"

Startled by the sudden loud footstep, we looked up to see a shadowy figure outside our door. I narrowed my eyes in suspicion. He was wearing a cloak or something with his katana tied to his side. Must be one of the soldiers, but.. Why is he wandering in this area?

"Hello? Who's out there?" Chizuru timidly called out, both of us on high alert. The figure stopped in his tracks and faced our door with no response given. With an unsettling feeling, I grabbed onto my sheath in precaution.

The door slid open roughly, revealing a male with snow white hair, his eyes gleamed red, his tongue licking his lips as he stared at us like we were his preys.

"T-that's..!" The brunette gasped in horror and backed away.

"Who are you? And what are you doing wandering about in the captains' sleeping quarters?" I unsheathed my blade and held it towards the male.

A giggle replied me. A giggle which was filled with insanity and caused me to take a step back. This monster- An image of those beasts on that bloody night flashed past my eyes.

"Blood.. Aha..haha..**AHAHAHAHA**! I want blood..! Give me blood!"

Caught off guard, the male had unsheathed his katana in the blink of an eye and lunged towards me in an unnatural speed, nicking me on the arm.

"Blood!" I fell onto my back with him right above me.

I gritted my teeth, my blade held above my chest to block his.

"Get for help, Chizuru!"

"H-hai!" Frightened, she scampered out of the room.

"Get off me you creep!" With all my strength, I pushed him off my body and stood up, unsteady.

>However, before I could recover, the lunatic plunged his blade into my shoulder, firmly pinning me to the wall and earning a muffled scream of pain.<p>

"Heehee! Blood..! I wan-"

Blood splattered all over me. I widened my eyes at the hole where his heart is supposed to be and how the male crumpled to the ground, his hair fading back to midnight black.

"Who-" I widened my eyes at my savior. His violet hair up in a high ponytail, swishing from side to side as he moved. His recognizable chocolate brown skin, those mesmerizing violet orbs.

"Hold on, alright?" His deep voice placed me in a trance as I continued to stare at him, watching how his face was marred with worry. "It's gonna hurt a lot."

An excruciating pain shot up my body, causing me to groan loudly and collapse onto him.

"You were great." He sat me up gently, my back propped up against his chest with his large hand on my head. "Don't worry about your wound, it'll heal soon."

"Y-you're from that day.."

"Yui!" The sound of my name resounded, followed by the quick patter of feet.

The male behind me rose up to his feet and gave me a smile that made my heart pound faster.

"I should make a move right now."

>Saying that, he made his way to my door and flipped himself onto the top of the wall.<p>

"W-wait!" I scrambled up to my feet and to the door, wincing at the pain at my shoulder.

>"W-will I see you again..?"<p>

He widened his eyes before sending a cocky smile to me.

"Of course. I'll see you around soon, _RiRi_." With that, he vanished into the darkness of the night, leaving me shocked.

RiRi.. That's the young girl's nick-

"Yui!" Grabbed by the wrist, I was pulled, only to face the chest of my brother.

"Nii-san.."

"Are you alright? Are you hurt? Whose blood is that? Did you kill that man? Do you need me to run to find the best doctor in the world!?"

Hearing him mention about the other lunatic man, my eyes widened and turned to look at dead body laid in the room Chizuru and I had shared. Hajime, Sanosuke, Souji, Hijikata, Sannan and Kondou entered the room to examine the body with Shinpachi supporting me and Heisuke and Chizuru by my side.

" Did Yui do this?"

"No, she didn't. There are no fatal wounds from a sword."

"Then how-"

"Kondou-san, Hijikata-san, I've found something."

"What is it, Hajime-kun?"

"There's a hole on his clothes where the heart is. I'm guessing that is it from a gun."

"Gun? But none of our soldiers-"

My mind was in a blank. What happened just now? What was that? Why did that man save me yet again? Why..? I look down at my trembling hands. Why am I shaking so much? What am I feeling right now?

* * *

><p>~Third POV~

In their meeting room,the captains watched the female warily. She have yet to utter a word,and have yet to respond to their commander's questions.

"Yui-chan,let me ask you this again. What happened?" Kondou's usually kind and jovial voice was now replaced by a serious one.

"If you don't answer,we will use torture to get it out from you instead." A cold voice from the vice-commander cut in.

"Yui,imouto,please answer."

"..Who."

"I'm sorry?"

"..." The sister of Shinpachi raised her head up,her eyes filled with terror. "Who..no. What was that? Why was it..wearing your uniform?"

* * *

><p>"..Who."<p>

"I'm sorry?"

"..." The sister of Shinpachi raised her head up,her eyes filled with terror. "Who..no. What was that? Why was it..wearing your uniform?"

Silence filled the room. The captains froze and the interrogated female made no attempts to say any further.

"Truth is.."

"Kondou-san! You can't tell her."

"...But we,the Shinsengumi,owe our new addition an explanation. After being so shaken up after the events that have taken place,she deserves one."

"Basically,Yui-kun,it's a top-secret medicine made under the orders directed by the Bakufu.'" Sannan explained. "It was first introduced from the West. It's an elusive medicine that can dramatically transform a person. Having said that,it strengthens a person and heightens their recuperative healing abilities. However it has a

fatal flaw. You have already witnessed what happened to those who have had the drug administered. They will lose all rational thoughts and transform into blood-lusting creatures when they take this medicine."

"..."

"..Shiranui..Kyo."

Puzzled,the captains stared at her.

"Shiranui Kyo?"

" He saved me from getting killed. I was pinned to the wall with his katana lodged into my shoulder." The mahogany haired reached up to her injured shoulder. "And he came and killed the man."

"Huh? That cocky oni was the one that saved princess? But why?" Sanosuke furrowed his eyebrows,deep in thought.

"Oni?"

A loud crash could be heard and their attention was immediately diverted to the door.

"Dammit! Of all times to cause trouble." Hijikata grumbled and stood up,pushing open the door. "Oi oi oi! What is going on over here?"

On the ground laid two badly wounded soldiers with a group of men cloaked in black.

"Pardon us. We are just here to find a girl named Yui." The supposed leader of the group stepped forward and gave a half bow.

"That doesn't give you any rights to come inside our headquarters and injure our men!"

"Why,of course." The unknown man replied smoothly,a diabolical grin etched on his face.

"What's going on?" The wanted female pushed past the captains and looked forward,only to tense up and have her hands fly straight to her sheath,pushing her thumb on the hilt.

"Why are you here!?" Yui seethed in anger,her body jerking with fury.

"Ah! What a pleasure to meet you again,Yui-chan!" Her blade immediately pointed towards the group of male. "Though it was rather unfortunate that we had to meet under those circumstances." The male smirked knowingly. "If you know what's best for you and your friends,you should really cooperate and come with us."

"What makes you think that I would let my sister go with you?" Shinpachi stepped before his sister with his katana unsheathed.

"Nagakura Shinpachi,is it right? Well,this makes it much more easier for us. Pity you didn't get to witness how your parents die like how she did." He nodded towards the female who was filled with burning

hatred. "Perhaps a little live demonstration will give you an idea of what a tragic death your parents had."

"What did ya say!?" The unknown man just chuckled lowly and snapped his fingers.

What happened next scarred all the captains and Chizuru.

The other men started to shift and transform into horrendous looking beasts. They howled as their clothes were torn apart, the sickening sound of bone snapping echoed in the air. They were just like how Yui had described the very first day she came to the headquarters; huge in size, blood red eyes, large canine teeth and large sharp claws.

Those beasts stood there, drool dripping from their mouths, heavy breaths could be heard as they awaited for the next command.

"See those injured men on the ground? Go ahead and play with them till your fill." The male ordered.

"N-no..! Wait!" Yui screamed with all her might.

"Splat!"

"ARGHHHH!" The painful screams for the innocent men rang in the captains' ears, their face grimaced, sometimes forcing themselves to look away.

"..no..no more.." The trembling girl fell to her knees, her hands over her ears, her eyes wide in fear. The image of her parents' bodies from that night laid before her eyes, her arm reaching out to the illusion shakily. "Okaasan..Otousan.. Stop it.. Please just stop it!"

The intruder smirked in glee at the traumatized female's reactions and the Nagakura's one and only son's expression. Shinpachi stood rooted to the ground, his mouth gaped in horror and his grip onto his katana tightened.

'This..happened..to my parents. And my sister..had to watch it all by herself..'

The screams of terror and the gruesome sounds of the tearing of flesh faded. The group of captains finally managed to look, only to see the bodies all mangled, not being able to identify which are the legs and hands. Bile rose up their throats.

"Hmm.. over so soon?" The male sighed and rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "Hmm, lets see. What did we do after this? Ah of course." He unsheathed his own sword and started stabbing at the pile of flesh and bones.

"How do you feel, Shinpachi-kun? This is how your parents died." Shinpachi glowered and growled menacingly, only to be held by his arms tightly by his best buds, Sanosuke and Heisuke.

"Don't." Sanosuke warned. " He is just trying to get on your nerves and get you all worked up."

"Oh, am I? How about you, Yui-chan? Would you make a wise decision to follow us?"

The female stood up slowly, her left hand trembling.

"You say_ 'wise decision'_ huh?" Yui muttered with much distaste.
"I'll kill you!"

"Hm? Be careful with your words."

"Even if I die, I will drag you along with me!"

The mahogany haired female charged straight to the group of beasts, yelling with much agony from the traumatic experience.

"Yui!"

"Die, you beasts!" Swiftly, she beheaded two of the beasts, and they immediately turned into dust. The remaining beasts growled and surrounded the female. She just furrowed her eyebrows and stab one in the heart, killing the rest in a quick strike after much difficulty.

"_Clap! Clap! Clap_!" The hooded figure approached the panting female who immediately put up her guard and pointed her blade towards him.
"I'm impressed, Yui-chan. You've improved so much."

Strands of her hair fell, a sharp blade by her neck as her eyes widened in shock.

"But, you know, you make me really angry." He glared at her darkly.

"You bastard!" The intruder sidestepped, his cloak tore slightly by the blade of the Nagakura male. "Don't you dare ignore me after doing all those to my parents!"

"Hmph. Foolish human." The hooded male flipped himself onto the wall and grinned. "Well then, till next time Yui-chan! Oh and Shinpachi-kun! Ooo, I am so excited for our next meeting."

With that, he vanished and the female collapsed on the ground.

"Yui!" Shinpachi ran to his sister's side and held her in his embrace carefully. "I-I'm so sorry.. You had to witness all those all by yourself.."

"I-I caused those men to perish." She looked at her brother shakily, tears dropping onto her face. "It's my fault again.."

The Nagakura tightened his grip onto the younger one.

"What are you talking about?! It's not your fault! It was that man and those beasts' fault!"

"..Nii-chan.. I'm scared.."

At that moment, everyone saw past the female's high wall and finally saw the vulnerable side of her.

* * *

><p>Ideas and comments are appreciated.**

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9. Nine 9

__**[Revised Version]**__

**I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC YUI! **

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

It's been days since the horrendous sight have been displayed for the others to watch.

How have I been doing? Well, it's far better than the last time it happened. The last time it happened, I nearly ripped any sane person's head from their body.

...

Okay, I might have been exaggerating a little. But the feeling was the same.

It was like why? Why did it have to be me? What's so special about me in the first place?!

I'm not smart or anything. Definitely not a wife material. Absolutely not beautiful in any way. All I have is some stupid illness eating me aw-

What? Illness? Pfft. I did not say anything about illness. Or eating.

Now that I'm thinking of it, I'm kind of craving for dangos. And ramen. And possibly some sake. And-

"Deep in your thoughts huh?" My heart leapt at the deep velvety voice.

"Shiranui Kyo..?" My pink orbs met his violet ones.

His face scrunched up in surprise before smoothing it out with a cocky grin.

"Heh. So you did some research on me eh? Always the curious one, RiRi." His laughter tinkled like bells to my ears as he made himself comfortable in my room.

"I- um.." My face burst into various shades of red, flustered by his blatant teasing. "I just kind of know it, that's all."

"Oh? Well, aren't you a bold lil one? Flirting with me so

casually."

"I'm not! Sheesh.." I turned to the right and pouted.

Kyo's sly grin appeared right before my eyes before leaning in, closing the gap between us and...

"Chu!"

"**MMPH**!" I felt my cheeks exploding in embarrassment and shyness once the violet eyed man snatched away my first kiss..gently.

He pulled back and rested his face on his palms, grinning right at my reaction.

"Ah! I will never get bored of that cute reaction and this adorable face you're showing to me. Ack-!"

"S-shut up!" Completely embarrassed, I grabbed my pillow and smacked him across the face.

* * *

><p>"So what you mean is.. Onis are a kind of yokais which also means demons."<p>

"That's what I said."

"..."

"..."

"..Alright then." I scratched my head, shrugging my shoulders in the process. "That means that you have another form, right?"

I sat up much straighter than before, my eyes much wider than before. Excitement filled my body and before I knew it, I leaned much closer to Kyo, my lips forming into a large grin.

"Could you show your form to me? Oh please please please! " I literally begged him, sending puppy eyes towards him.

The tease just winked at me, snapping his fingers. Mist clouded my vision, my eyes squinting to attempt to see what was going on. The sight before my eyes left me in awe.

Silver locks of hair replaced his violet hair. His violet orbs faded into a shade of red, bewitching me under his gaze. I was completely mesmerized by the majestic aura emitted by him. My eyes travelled up to his head which laid a set of horns standing out from his entire appearance.

Step by step, I made my way to the oni. Reaching out my left hand, I gently touched his horns. My fingers slowly trailed down to Kyo's soft silver strands of hair, running through the silky locks before caressing his face. My eyes stared at a mark just beneath his eye. It was the image a rose, thorns creating a shield around the flower.

Kyo's right hand slid around my waist and pulled me close to him, his

right hand tilting my chin up,capturing my eyes with his captivating glance.

Heat rushed to my cheeks,my eyes fluttered as his warm breath hits my face.

"**YUI**!" Frightened by the sudden loud noise,I leaped out from his grip and clutched onto my chest,my face flushed**. "IT'S TIME FOR PATROLLING! BE READY IN THE NEXT MINUTE!"**

"I- uh! **BYE**!" I grabbed the light blue coat and katana,and fled out of the room.

* * *

><p>As I patrolled the streets of Kyoto with Hajime and the Third Division, I couldn't help but let my thoughts wander to the events to took place over the past few days. How I slowly let down my guard with the goofs that called themselves the merciless captains. How they each draw me out from the shell I made and showed me not to fear anymore.<p>

_ 'Mama. Papa.' _ I looked up at the azure sky and a soft smile graced my lips._ 'I'm with a group of people. Who makes me really happy. I'll continue to live on for your sake,and theirs as well.' _

' 'Yo! Yui-chan.' '

I looked to my right to see Souji,I mean Jiji-kun, walking towards us with the rest of the First Division.

' ' 'Sup! Jiji-kun.' '

Souji glared at me menancingly while Hajime coughed loudly. Probably because he choked on his saliva when he heard my nickname for Souji.

' 'Don't get too cheeky.' '

' 'Try me,you stupid cat.' '

The both of us stared before I broke away from the eye contact and started to cough violently into my hands.

'_Shit_' I fumbled with my handkerchief and covered my mouth as quickly as I could.

' 'Are you ok?' ' Souji patted my back,his face flashed a look of concern.

I nodded and wiped any traces of blood from my mouth and smiled.

' 'Must be the cold weather these days.' '

And as if it was rehearsed,a sudden cold gust of wind blew at our faces,my body shivering at the change of temperature.

I felt something warm wrapped around my neck and saw it was Hajime's white scarf.

'You need it more than me. I don't want Shinpachi to come after me if you fall sick.' Hajime looked away and walked with the rest of the Third Division, leaving me behind with Souji.

'Saitou...san.' I stared at his back, wide-eyed.

'Hmm?' Souji popped his face in front of mine, his signature smirk sewn back in its place. 'What is going on between the both of you~?'

I rolled my eyes.

Just to update you guys, Souji and I had cleared the bad blood between us days ago. Well, most of them. Now we are much closer, especially when we share our love for pranks.

'Nothing is going on, Detective Okita. You're thinking too much.'

He laughed that carefree laughter of his and pulled me along with him by my hand.

'Let's quickly make our rounds. We don't want to have RaRa-chan to fall ill~' The green eyed man sang.

'RaRa-chan?'

'My beloved nickname for you since you gave such a 'nice' nickname to me.'

I gagged at his feigned thankfulness and pouted.

'Hey, I gave you such a cute nickname yet you give me a freaky one! Not fair!'

'How is that freaky? It's cute! Your nickname for me is gross! Very gross. Not cute at all.'

The both of us bickered all the way till our duty was over and with Hajime hitting us on the head with the hilt of his katana.

* * *

><p>I raised my eyebrow at the scene where Shinpachi and Heisuke were fighting over their rightful fishes.<p>

Souji just silently sipped his tea and Hajime ate his food in silence. Chizuru also had her eyebrows raised at the two, like me.

Sanosuke, well... He's just being the laid back person as usual, snatching both of their food while they fight.

'Yui! Help me control Shinpatsu and tell him not to take my fish!'

Heisuke yelped at the another attack from my brother.

I sighed with irritation. I picked my untouched fish with my pair of chopsticks and gently placed it in my childish brother's bowl of rice.

'Really Shin-kun. Stop bullying Heisuke-kun already. He needs enough food to grow stronger.' I chided softly.

'Yes..'

Shinpachi finally stopped his antics and solemnly looked down like a reprimanded kid.

Heisuke cheered happily for his saved fish and munched on it with delight.

Souji grinned at me, his emerald eyes twinkling with mischief.

'And RaRa-chan saves the day!'

Shinpachi and Heisuke looked up from their food and exclaimed in unison, 'RaRa-chan?'

They both doubled over in laughter, tears escaping from their eyes. I gritted my teeth and seethed at Souji.

Dammit! That was on purpose, I swear! This is why I never like cats! That stupid catty cat!

'I'm glad I did, Jiji-kun.'

This time, everyone in the room burst out laughing, with the exception of Souji, Hajime and me.

'Pfft! Jiji-kun! Haha! Nice one, princess.' Sanosuke slung his arm over my shoulder and laughed breathlessly, his warm breath tickling my burning cheeks that flushed red at the intimate contact.

'But Souji's nickname for Yui is classic! Haha! RaRa-chan! Teehee!'

Shinpachi continued to tear up at the boisterous nickname.

'Since you like my nickname so much, nii-chan. I'll call you NaNa-kun from now on. How is that?'

Sarcasm laced my every word and it made him shut up immediately while the rest roared in laughter. Even Hajime couldn't help but chuckle at the newly formed nickname for Shinpachi.

Shinpachi was about to protest when Gen-san slid open the door with a serious yet worried face.

'Listen up, everybody. I have news from Osaka, from Hijikata-san. It looks like Sannan-san got a serious wound.'

Everyone, including me, gasped in shock and horror.

'What happened to Sannan-san?' Shinpachi asked straight to the point, his voice filled with concern.

'It's a very severe wound. It's on the right arm. It would be difficult for him to wield the sword from now,' Gen-san spoke with much regret while everyone in the room was hushed and tensed up.

'But there's no threat to his life.'

'Thank goodness..' Chizuru sighed in relief whereas the rest of us were solemn and in anguish for Sannan-san.

Hearing Chizuru's comment, Heisuke heatedly retorted back.

'It's not good!'

'Eh?'

Seeing Chizuru's clueless look, I was about to explain to her what he meant but Hajime stole my line calmly.

'The sword isn't something that you can manipulate with your other hand.' He spoke steadily, his hard gaze fixed on the floor. 'Maybe he won't be able to use the sword again.'

Chizuru's clueless look contorted into a look of horror. I gripped onto my left hand involuntarily. Not being able to wield a sword.. For a samurai, it's a disgrace and shame for he won't be able to fight again.

'That's all. I have to go and talk with Kondou-san.' Gen-san closed the door and walked away to Kondou's room.

There was a moment of hush silence before Okita spoke up with a serious look on his face.

'If it's necessary, we'll have to use the medicine on him.'

The image of the rasetsu I've encountered sent shivers down my spine, gripping onto my trousers tightly. A large calloused hand laid above mine. My pink orbs met warm golden ones. Sanosuke sent me a reassuring smile, relieving the tension that was building up inside.

'Don't say nonsense.' Shinpachi spoke steely. 'We can't let a leader of the Shinsengumi fall into the hands of it.'

I frowned, reaching for my neck and raised the locket charm of the necklace I wore.

I want to save others. I don't want to bring death to anyone anymore.

* * *

>pI'm finally back guys! My finals are finally over!

I'll be updating this story every **Friday** so do keep a look out!

Please read and review! Reviews are greatly appreciated as inspiration is needed for me to write up on the following chapters.

Thank you and enjoy your day ahead!

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10. Ten 10

[Revised Version]

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC SUCH AS YUI!

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

Pain erupted throughout my chest as I winced, breathing in and out heavily. My throat started to itch badly before a series of loud coughs ensued. I clutched onto my chest, writhing on my futon, blindly searching for my box of pills.

"Yui-chan? ..Are you okay?" Chizuru's voice reached my ears as I fumbled with my chest of items, my mind hazy.

"M-my medicine.." I hoarsely coughed out, biting on my lips harshly.

Chizuru yelped and rushed around the room clumsily, stepping onto me in the process.

"Gah...! Chizuru-chan..y-you're not helping. Ugh.." I groaned and roll over on my side.

"I'm sorry!" Chizuru's apologetic voice rang as the oil lamp is lit. "Are you okay?"

Coughing breathlessly, I gestured to my personal single-columned cabinet. "First drawer. M-medicine.."

Chizuru frantically rummaged through the first drawer, retrieving my box of pills minute later. I grabbed the item from her hands and poured out two pills shakily. I grimaced as I swallowed them down with no liquid.

"Feh..!" I coughed dryly for a few times before wiping my lips with the sleeve. "As horrible as it always is."

The brunette reached out to touch my slightly flushed face, exclaiming, "You're warm!"

"No.. I'm hot. Thank you for the compliment."

"It's not the time for jokes! Are you alright?"

"Yeah." I stuck out my tongue at her worried expression. "I think I kinda choke on my saliva while I was sleeping."

"...Really?" She sent me a look of disbelief as I laughed lightly. "What about the medicine? What is it for?"

"Oh. It's for panic attacks. Ever since that night.. I started to have seizures when I panic. The medicine helps to calm me down." I lied to her rather smoothly and naturally, seeing her face relax much

more.

* * *

><p>~Flashback~
**

>'Itadakimasu!''<p>

'Shinpachi-san. Thank you for sharing!'' Heisuke's cheeky voice filled the room and attacked Shinpachi's fish meat. Shinpachi yelled at Heisuke for taking his food away.

'I was saving that for the last! You brat! It's payback time!''

'What are you doing?!''

'What am I doing? You ate my food!''

'So what? You eat all my food all the time!''

'That was a long time ago!''

'I am talking about this morning! You stole three of my side dishes! **THREE**! And there were only four side dishes for that meal!''

Per usual, Heisuke and Shinpachi were fighting over their food while the rest of us silently eat our food and judge them hard.

I groaned softly and took a sip of tea to ease the headache I was experiencing with.

'You ok, princess?'' I gaze up only to find myself mesmerized in Sanosuke's pair of golden eyes.

They were so beautiful, just like a particular pair of red ones. I blushed softly and played with my food, distracted.

'Yea. I'm fine..'' I waved him off and heard his deep chuckle shortly after.

'You're so cute when you blush, my princess.' He played with my long hair, touching my neck lightly. "Hey, did you always have this section of silver hair?"

"Huh? What do you mean?" Rattled by his question, I touched my hair lightly. It was fine when I looked into the mirror this morning.

"Well, you still look as beautiful as always." He winked flirtatiously and I pretended to gag in response.

'You shuddap..'' I growled at him.

'Hahaha! Did I capture your heart already?'' He grinned.

'I'm not ready to be captured by anyone, Sano-kun. Plus, you are a ladies' man like how Shinpachi calls you. Don't get your hopes up, mister.' I joked and he gave me a disappointed look before quickly regaining his confidence and sent me a wink.

'Not that again.. Well,I won't give up,princess.'

I laughed at his determination. I was about to reply him when the door slides open,revealing the stern face of Hijikata.

'I just got back.' He announced his arrival.

'Welcome back,Toshi.' Kondou greeted back warmly.

'Hijikata-san..' Souji grinned before everyone stopped short at the sight of Sannan-san,and his right arm all bandaged up.

I looked down and gripped onto my left hand involuntarily again. I don't know why but I felt so fearful ever since we were told that Sannan-san's hand was injured. My left hand would just become weak all of a sudden,not able to feel the pressure I've placed onto it with my right hand.

'Welcome back,Sannan-san.' Recovering quicker than any of us in the room,Souji greeted the injured man with a small playful grin.

'Good to be back.' Sannan-san replied,a fake smile fixated on his face.

Somehow,his voice sounded very distant. Like he didn't want to be back here at all. But then again, my assumptions could be wrong. Then again,I am quite good at guessing. Call it the err..'_Yui Instinct_'!

'You did great out there. How's your arm?' Kondou asked carefully,threading slowly on thin ice with his phrasing of words.

I knew why he did so. Every samurai has their own pride. They refused to be pitied on when they are to be injured,especially when it involves their main arm.

'You can see it for yourself. I was too careless out there.' Sannan-san lightly nodded towards his bandaged arm,a light note of mockery hidden between his words.

After he said that,everyone gave him the '_are you kiddin' me?_' look. I guess he sensed our doubts towards his answer,he smiled,again fakely,towards us.

'I'll be fine. It's not as bad as it looks,so there's no need for concern.' He reassured us before bowing slightly and stood up,walking towards the door.
>'If you may excuse me.'

'Sannan-san,what bout dinner?' Heisuke called out to him frantically.

'I'll pass. I'm a little tired so I would like to rest in my room.'

With that,he closed the door,walking away.

'How I hate liars." I muttered under my breath.

I think Shinpachi and Sanosuke heard me because they each held onto one of my hand and squeezed it tightly.

~End of flashback~

* * *

><p>I coughed at the slight wind blowing against my hair.<p>

'RaRa-chan~! Why are you zoning out?'

'Am not,Jiji-kun.'

'Don't lie. I called you for the last 5 minutes but you were just staring into space.' Souji's smirk stretched wider.
>'Were you thinking of me?''<p>

I laughed sarcastically, 'Haha! In your dreams.'

'C'mon RaRa-chan~ Don't be like this.'

'Shuddap,Jiji-kun. You're giving me a headache.'

'You're not catching a cold,are you?' Hajime spoke up,cutting off Souji from replying.

'No... Why do you say that?' I raised my eyebrow at him.

'You were coughing and you said you have a headache. Those are some symptoms of a cold.' He stated like it was the obvious. Which..was the obvious.

'I'm fine,Haji-kun.' I smiled,earning a rosy pink painted on his cheeks.

Since we've been together for awhile,he started to open up to me ,just as how I had opened up to him slowly, and hence I gave him a nickname,Haji-kun. Cute,isn't it? I know. I take pride in the nicknames I create.

'Hey! Not fair! Hajime-kun gets a nicer nickname than me. Are you guys having something?' Souji glanced at me suspiciously.

'Nope.' I denied. I wasn't interested. Or at least,I can't have it.

We continued the rest of our patrolling with Souji's endless teasing and bickering.

* * *

><p>'Itadakimasu!''<p>

Everyone dropped their jaws when Sannan-san brought his food in the dining room and sat at his usual corner. He took up one of his rice balls off his plate and took a small bite.

'Supposedly food tastes better when you're in a big crowd.'

That was when smiles started to climb back onto everyone's faces, the atmosphere lightening up to its usual glow.

'That's right!' Kondou agreed, smiling jovially.

'Chizuru chan, why do I have different food from the others?' I cocked my head to the side, puzzled. I wasn't sick. Or at least none of them knew about it, yet.

'Ah. Last night you coughed quite badly till you got up from your sleep. All hoarse and dry. And you were kind of flushed. So I did the food differently, reducing the seasoning and more spring onions in your miso soup to improve on your immune system.' Chizuru smiled tenderly at me.

I felt gazes shot towards my direction and I squirmed uncomfortably.

'I told you, I choked on my saliva in the middle of my sleep. I'm fine.' I sighed.

'No, you're not!' Shinpachi insisted firmly. 'No healthy person will choke in the middle of their sleep and cough so badly at night till they couldn't sleep.'

I sighed in defeat, knowing I can't win Shinpachi this round. I looked at my soup and grimaced in distaste. The sight of chopped spring onions floating in my soup irked me greatly. The horrible greens. Ugh.

Chizuru saw my look and she chided, 'Spring onions are good for you! This is the only way for you to get better.'

'Yes yes...'

I lifted up my bowl and dumped everything in my mouth before swallowing it with much difficulty.

'Yucks!' I stuck out my tongue at the horrible taste and groaned in disgust, sticking out my tongue and attempting to rid the taste of greens. Most chuckled at my reaction.

'I think I'll be much worse after drinking this disgusting soup.'

'Don't be picky! Eat what is good for you.' Hijikata barked like a mother hen he is.

'Yes, mom' I pretended to be obedient, grinning at the infuriated vice-commander while the others snickered at my witty comeback.

It is so much fun pissing off Hijikata.

* * *

><p>Please read, comment and heart.

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11. Eleven 11

[Revised Version]

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OCS AND PLOT!

* * *

><p>Third POV

A lone figure weaved through the thick forest, his speed never once falter. Just cloaked in black with a mask hiding half of his face, his yellow eyes shone in the darkness, filled with danger and mischief. His yellow orbs narrowed as he zoomed by, flipping over a tree and landed on top of a high wall.

The figure gazed at the eerie looking castle. A low chuckle bubbled through his chest, his eyes glinting. Slowly, he pulled down his mask, a smirk in place. There revealed the face of the man who had appeared at the Shinsengumi's headquarters previously.

Murmuring a string of words, the male vanished and appeared into the interior of the castle.

Before him were two rows of servants on either side. At the very end appeared a man surrounded by gorgeous looking women.

"My Lord, I have returned." The yellow eyed male walked before the other and knelt on his knee, his right fist over his heart.

"I see you have returned empty handed again. Hibiki."

Hibiki bowed his head respectfully. "I apologize for disappointing you with my return, My Lord. Though I have not returned with the girl, I have returned with a piece of information that might interest you."

The unknown man, his face covered by the shadows, gave a hum of acknowledgement for Hibiki to carry on speaking.

"It seems that the girl you seek now resides in the headquarters of the Shinsengumi."

"..Shinsengumi? Those _Mibu wolves_?"

"Yes, My Lord. It appears that her step brother is part of the Shinsengumi. And that the Yui girl has yet to find out her **_real_** identity."

"Pfft-" A soft giggle broke into the room. "Hehehe! Ahahahahaha!"

A sinister grin crept onto Hibiki's face as he watched how his leader bellowed in laughter.

"My my my. How interesting it has turned out. Well, you are forgiven with this information you have relayed to me. Now, let us watch the drama unfold before we set the plan into motion." The unknown man chuckled in glee. "The Shinsengumi? Such luck. I shall crush every

single one of them when the time comes."

"For now.." He waved his hand in the air, purple smoke consuming a large mirror beside the unknown man before residing, revealing an image of a certain mahogany haired and pink eyed girl with a group of males in their sky blue coats. "We shall just wait."

* * *

><p>Yui's POV

"Be safe, Shinpachi-nii, Sano-kun." I nodded towards them and their units. Shinpachi and Sanosuke sent a cheeky grin and a lazy salute before walking out of the gates.

I went over to the courtyard. These days, I've been feeling that someone is watching my every move. It's getting on my nerves and I'm totally questioning my sanity. I mean- feeling eyes eyeballing me and voices whispering by my ear? That's completely insane. I completely understand that I'm real hot even though I'm dressed as a male right now. But sheesh, talk about personal space and privacy!

I paused in my tracks and froze right before the meeting room. This was the place where those beasts showed up and devoured two innocent men. Though it has been weeks, I could still see those blood stains on the ground.

"Oh? RaRa-chan? What are you doing there staring off into space like that, my little fool.?"

A vein popped up at the side of my forehead, clenching my fist.

"Ouch! Whadda ya do that for, yer lil wench!" Souji cursed, rubbing his nose while wincing. "Well, you're not cute at all."

I swung my fist up in the air, my eyebrow twitching ever so often. "I'm not here just to be cute, dumbass! And if anyone is a fool, it's you! Damn pesky lil cat. Go hide in the tree while a bitch hunt you down. Ugh."

"Oh?" The male propped his hands on his hips, a sly grin reattached on his face. "Looks like someone woke up from the wrong side of the floor."

Crossing my arms across my chest and rolling my eyes as he snickered.

"No. It's more of a certain cat showing his stinking arse to my face and crashing whatever positive vibe I had for the day completely."

Smirking, he slung his arm my shoulders, ignoring the dirty look I shot at him. "Now that's why I'm interested in you. No one can rebut back like you do. Other girls will be so prissy and a bimbo they are."

Shrugging off his arm, I smirked back, "Well, I'm not any girl. I'm a female who's dressed as a male."

"Haha! True true,RaRa-chan." Souji nodded his head. "So what's up? You were really lost in your thoughts just now."

"I was just thinking of the incident that happened right here previously."

Sighing,Souji folded his arms. "Yeah,quite a sight. Even though we deal with Onis and I love killing,that was something I wished I could erase it." Laughing he continued on,"Remember when you first came and told us the story. And I didn't believe it then?"

"Heh. Yeah. You said rather rude things and I flared up. Darn,I wanted to murder you in the most painful way ever that day." I mused. Souji cracked up,slapping his thighs.

"That's funny." He calmed down. "..I never thought that was possible. But I was wrong. How I managed to apologize is really.."

"Really unable to apprehend?"

"Exactly."

"It's all in the past. I just really wish I could find out why this is happening to me." I sighed. "I'm just a normal human female who loves to kickbutt. But that doesn't even matter since I don't go out and find myself trouble like Shinpachi-nii does."

"Patience is a virtue." I gave him a funny look. Souji raised his hands up in defense."What?"

"Hmm.. Of all people,I would think that you're the last to say such a thing."

"Oi! I do read alright?"

"Hey,it's not my fault that you look stupid."

"Dammit,come back here you unlikable and unadorable wench!"

* * *

><p>Please read,review and follow!

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12. Twelve 12

_[Revised Version]

**_I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OCS AND PLOT!_

>

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

Chizuru was washing the mens' clothes with her pink sleeves rolled up to her elbows while Hajime diligently practiced with his sword.

>Souji and I were just lazing on the veranda and basking in the Sun,bickering at one another right after we received harsh lectures from Hijikata like any other day.<p>

'Do you need anything?'

I looked up to see Hajime pause in his training.

'Eh? Actually...' Chizuru quickly stood up and stuttered. She looked down and fumbled with her hakama pants,attempting to smooth out any crease.

That's so cool! She didn't make any noise and he didn't even have to turn around to look at Chizuru to know that she wanted to ask him a favor! I should ask him for lessons.

'Hmm...in love,aren't we?' Okita teased playfully,twirling a loose piece of my hair around his index finger.

'Nah...My heart belongs to you only.' I rolled my eyes and caressed his face,speaking with much sarcasm.

I don't even know why we act like a couple or why I even continued with his tease. It is a really tiresome and confusing relationship between us.

'Aww~! How sweet of you.' He held onto my hand which was on his face and smirked,shooting me a kissy face. I gave him a look of disgust and grabbed my hand back from his tight grip,landing a sucker punch on his face subsequently.

"Gah! You fucking unadorable wench.. My perfectly shaped nose!"

'I was wondering if I could go outside and find my father.' Chizuru asked hopefully.

Now that she mentioned it,her father- What's his name again?

**_Yukimura Kendou? Yukimura Kou? Yukimura Kokonut?

Yukimura...Kondom? _**Forget it,I don't remember his name at all. But I do remember that Chizuru mentioned that her father is a scientist and his appearance.

I recalled the time when I had met him in Edo. Somehow,he overheard my erm..illness and tried to persuade me to drink down a nasty-looking vile. And **I drank it!** Nah,I was just kidding. I mean,who exactly will listen to a bald-looking monk covered in ashes with bloodshot eyes staring right at you,or at least that was how he was dressed like. Not only that,he refused to reveal any information about the vile..

Now that I think about it.. The Shinsengumi has a vile also.. The..the _Ochimizu_. I remember Sannan mentioning the name of the person who created it,a Yukimura something person.

Hold on! Yukimura!? So Chizuru's father!? And the vile-! Oh I am so going to kill that bastard when I see him again. If Shinpachi heard of this,he's not gonna be happy. Oh no,he'll be extremely furious and probably rip the old man apart.

'That's impossible. A fair number of people are trying to kill the captain. We can't afford any escorts for you.' Hajime continued on with his training, leaving a disappointed Chizuru.

'But of course if you follow us during our patrols.' Souji slightly hinted with a wide grin.

>I rolled my eyes and gave him a hard punch in the head.<p>

'Ouch! RaRa-chan! What was that for!?' He protested, hugging his head in pain. "First my nose and now my head! I'm losing billions of my brain cells because of you!"

'Don't give her the wrong ideas! And you are an airhead, you have no brain cells to lose!' I chided, sticking out my tongue at him.

'Okita-san, would you please take me with you?' Her brown orbs sparkling in excitement, ignoring my comment.

I facepalmed myself and sighed. I don't have a good feeling about this. But one thing for sure, Souji successfully began to stir up trouble. That baka troublemaker! Idiotic useless cat!

'But we are risking our lives when doing our rounds.' Souji was back up, being all arrogant and haughty.

>'Some unlucky bastards get themselves cut down by our enemies. At the very least, we'd need you to know how to defend yourself before we'd be able to take you along.'<p>

'Even I know the art of self-defense! I attended a short sword dojo before..' Chizuru's voice trailed off and I could tell that she wasn't exactly confident in what she was saying. Yet she was still stubborn. It pisses me off a lot.

'In that case, allow me to test you.' Hajime spoke up, looking at the girl in the eye.

I started to protest, 'I don't think that's-'

'I don't think that's a good idea. Why don't you let RaRa-chan spar with her?'

I glared at Souji, kicking him in the shin right after. He groaned and writhed in pain on the ground.

"Dammit!"

'Thanks a bunch for dragging me into the mess, Jiji-kun.'

He gave me a wink but I just dusted my ass and stood before Chizuru.

'I'm ready. You can attack from any direction. No need to hold back.' I encouraged her gently but instead, she gripped onto her short sword trembling, not willing to unsheath it.

'B-But..'

'Is that short sword by your waist just for show, Chizuru?' I taunted, trying to get her worked up to attack me.

'Of course not! But you could die if I hit you with a sword,Yui-chan.'

I sighed heavily at her innocent answer while Souji slapped his thighs repeatedly,laughing loudly. Even Hajime looked at her, amused.

'You? Hurting RaRa-chan? Hahahaha! That's like the biggest joke ever!'' Okita snickered and I mentally agreed with him. If I get defeated by her,my pride.. That'll definitely not happen! I'll make sure of that.

Not many people can defeat me. So far,only Souji,Hajime and Hijikita and some other well-skilled samurais can injure me. I'm not saying that the other captains aren't good enough. They have their own strengths and excel in their own ways,just that none of them has beaten me before.

'I really don't think that you are able to hurt Yui even if you want to.' Hajime agreed,boosting my ego.

I looked over at Chizuru sternly.

'If you insist,you may use the blunt side of your blade. That way,you wouldn't _'hurt'_ me."

Chizuru looked at her sword for a few minutes before drawing it out and pointing towards me with determination written on her face.

'Let's do this!'

We remained silent and Chizuru's determined look faltered for awhile before looking at me with wavering confidence.

'Yaaaaahhhh!'' She charged at me,swinging her blade towards me,recklessly.

**'Clang!''**

I quickly drew out my sword to defend myself as our blades clashed. I spun around and pressed the blade against her neck lightly before she could even attack me again.

>Seeing her all shocked,I redrew back my katana and sheathed it.<p>

'Wh-what just happened?'' Chizuru stood there trembling,her face in disbelief and shock.

'RaRa-chan is a master at drawing her sword. Just that she's slightly inferior compared to Hajime-kun.' Souji grinned and picked up her short sword that laid on the ground. "A very well done to RaRa-chan still."

I shot her a soft smile to calm her nerves.

'I'm not really a master. I'm still learning a lot from Haji-kun. Right,Haji-kun?'' I grinned at the blushing man.

'O-oh..'

'No way! You were so quick!' Chizuru exclaimed after seeing her sword was in Souji's hands.

'You'd be dead if Yui was actually taking it seriously. She was withholding at least one third of her skills,speed and strength.' Hajime stated and I stuck out my tongue at him.

'Don't tell her that,Haji-kun.'

Chizuru received her sword back from Okita and stared at me. I shrugged my shoulders.

'Don't listen to him,Chizuru. I'm just a mere girl who wants to defend herself from lechers such like Jiji-kun.'

"Oi! Then again,it's not like you hate it. You love it actually." Souji wiggled his eyebrows and attempted to touch my binded chest. A vein popped up at the side of my head,slapping his face.

'Hahaha!'

'Be proud of your master though. Your blade was not clouded. I could say that she will able to defend herself quite alright.' Hajime nodded at Chizuru. I would say otherwise. She was exceptionally reckless and she couldn't even hold onto her sword for a second.

" If that's what Haji-kun says,I'll agree with him. Just make sure you follow orders and not get stubborn and wimpy. If you hesitate over taking someone's life or even hurting them,you'll be the one to get killed and none of us will be there." I crossed my arm,warning her and implying that I won't tolerate any nonsense from her.

'That's pretty amazing! Hajime-kun and RaRa-chan gave you the go-ahead.' Souji whistled and followed Hajime's lead. "And RaRa-chan's right. It's either you kill or be killed. If you die,we don't hold any responsibility."

'S-So...' Chizuru trailed off,not knowing what it meant.

'It means Haji-kun and Jiji-kun will go and ask your boyfriend for permission to take you out on patrol.'

I smirked at the now blushing girl slyly. I could tell that she was crushing on that guy ever since on the day I first met her. She blushes when she's near him or when she touches or talks to him. I just don't get it though. Why on earth does she like the Oni vice-commander? His angry face and overbearing personality. Tsk.

'H-He's not my boyfriend!' She yelped in embarrassment,blushing furiously.

'That's what she said.' Souji and I said in unison before walking away,leaving her alone and flustered.

* * *

><p>'That was quite an achievement.' Sannan spoke smoothly, barely hiding his anger that was seething every so often.<p>

Everyone was in the meeting room, except for Hijikata who was interrogating our prisoner in the next room. I guess Chizuru and Souji must have done something to make Sannan that angry. All the best to the both of them. _May they rest in peace._

'You confiscated the arms they'd been piling up at Masuya. And then you even managed to capture Furutaka Shuuntarou, a Choushuu spy.'

'We sure were lucky!'' Souji replied in that happy-go-lucky tone. I smacked my face in despair.

Really. One day, he's gonna get cut down for his _'don't care' attitude. And the person who does that will probably be me.

'This isn't a laughing matter.' Sannan spoke sternly, his calculative eyes narrowing at Souji. 'We could have used the information that Masuya's shop owner is a Choushuu spy to our advantage.'

Heisuke pointed to the two unfamiliar looking men sitting behind him and Shinpachi.

'Don't you feel bad for Yamazaki-kun and Shimada-kun?'

'Please don't worry about us.' The smaller build man quickly reassured Heisuke.

Yamazaki Susumu. A special member of the Shinsengumi; apparently he is an intelligence officer as well as medic.

'We've been at a deadlock with Masuya for awhile anyway.' The other man added on.

>'Thanks to Okita-san, we were finally able to arrest Furutaka.'<p>

Shimada Kai. A 2nd Division corporal and an intelligence officer, with roles similar to Yamazaki.

'You guys were great,' Shinpachi complimented the two before lightly blaming Souji. 'And then Okita went and-'

'It's all my fault.' Chizuru spoke out softly, trying to defend Souji from getting all the blame. Key word: ****trying****.

>'I rushed headlong into the shop when I heard that someone saw my father there.'<p>

"..Gah! I told you not to, you lil brat!" I mumbled to myself and pinched the bridge of my nose, sighing heavily and feeling very annoyed.

'You were Okita-kun's responsibility.' Sannan spoke harshly.

'She was no one's responsibility. She decided to act on her own. She should be responsible for her own foolish actions. Why are you blaming it on Souji who went out of the way to help her when he could

have just left her be and be killed for her recklessness and stupidity." I retorted back acidly.

'Yui!' Shinpachi exclaimed at me, stunned by my words.

'About that!' Hijikata slid open the door from the interrogating room. 'I am to blame since I let her go. Please don't drown them in blame. Furthermore, Yui made a valid point. Chizuru has to learn to take responsibility for her actions and stop being a bag of burden to us.'

Chizuru flinched at the icy words. He closed the door and sat at his respective seat.

'Hijikata-san, did you get anything out of Furutaka?' Sanosuke asked curiously.

Hijikata glanced at everyone solemnly before disclosing the shocking information.

'They are going to set Kyoto aflame on a windy day. In the midst of chaos, they will kidnap the Emperor and take him to Choushuu.'

Why is the world filled with idiots that deserves to die? I groaned.

'Burning down Kyoto!?' Kondou shouted in horror.

'Can you believe that they want to kidnap the Emperor?' Heisuke exclaimed, wide-eyed.

Yes, I can totally believe it. Because they are fucking idiots, delusional and freaking out of their minds. Psychopaths can totally do the impossible.

'They claimed to be loyal and respectful to the Emperor but I sure don't see that.'

'Those Choshuu freaks must be nuts if they are serious about burning down the capital.' Shinpachi scorned.

'Hmm.. _Nutty freaks_.' I pondered at the image of freaky looking nuts and freaky people covered in nuts.

'You shuddap!'

'They must be panicking since we've apprehended Furutaka.' Hijikata assumed. 'I imagine they'll hold a meeting tonight to come up with some countermeasures.'

'Where do the Choushuu meet?' Kondou inquired.

'Going by their usual pattern, I believe they'll meet at Shikokuya or Ikedaya.' Shimada replied.

'Got it! Inform the Aizu Clan about this as well. Toshi, gather up our men!' Kondou instructed and Hijikata nodded.

* * *

><p>While returning to my room to prepare for the upcoming sneak attack,a pang of pain erupted in my chest. Unable to withstand the agony,I groaned and crouched against the wall,writhing in utmost pain. Fumbling with my sleeves,I retrieved my medication and swallowed it down. Gasping,I leaned against the ground and heaved breathlessly.<p>

All better,I got back onto my feet and dusted my clothes. A sigh of despair left my lips.

"Yui-chan!" Chizuru clutched onto my sleeve.

"Yeah?" I raised my eyebrow at her. She froze up and looked everywhere but at me.

"I.. I just wanted to apologize for earlier. I was thinking about your words and you were right. I was too reckless and let my guard down. I'm sorry for not heeding your advice previously!" The brunette bowed to me.

"As long as you know your faults and make sure you don't repeat them again. I'm sorry too,for being to harsh with my words. I should be more patient with you." I pat her head gently before entering our room.

Walking to my wardrobe,I noticed a white envelope on the table,with my name written on it. Picking it up,I pulled out the paper inside and opened it.

_"Your pink orbs sparkle like the sakura flowers in the night. Your voice is soft and clear like a bell. Your skin as fair as snow. Your hair flowing like honey. You plague my mind like never before. May the red thread of fate that binds the both of us reel and connect us." _The letter read out with the initials_** "S.K."**_ signed at the bottom.

My face was flushed and my heart beat quickly at the sweet confession. Above all,the one that caught my attention was the initials.

_'Shiranui Kyo..' _An unknowing smile crept up my face. I folded it carefully and place it back into the envelope,locking it in the second drawer of my cabinet.

Returning to the wardrobe and retrieving my coat and headpiece,along with my katana and wakizashi.

'Lets do this.'

* * *

><p>Please read,comment and heart!<p>

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**_I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY PLOT AND
OCS!_**

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

About thirty four men gathered,all donning on their sky blue coat which represents the Shinsengumi. I tugged on my own and kept my poker face before the many other soldiers.

'Is this all the men we have?' Hijikata exhaled in disappointment.

I could understand. The numbers placed us at a disadvantage and risk. With a small number to counter the camp of the enemy,it was near impossible.

'My apologies. I would have helped if I wasn't injured.' Sannan looked down at his bandaged arm. He was still reproaching himself for getting injured and useless.

'No,I need you to hold down the fort,Sannan-kun.' Kondou instructed,choosing his words tactfully.

'I wish we could use them right now.' I heard Sanosuke whisper to Hajime.

Those Rasetsus? The image of those uncontrollable red eyes filled with bloodlust flashed past. We definitely cannot use them. Instead of killing the enemies,they might turn on us and kill us as well.

'They won't be ready for a combat for a while yet.' Hajime steadily replied.

'Have the Aizu Clan and Shoshidai set out?' Hijikata inquired.

'I haven't heard word from either of them.' Gen replied.

'Tch. So they won't move unless they've seen hard evidence.' Hijikata scorned. 'Kondou-san,let's head out.'

'But we don't know if they are meeting at Shikokuya or Ikedaya.' Kondou replied in a troubled voice.

'They normally go to Ikedaya for their meetings.' Sannan reported. 'I can't imagine they'd go there the night after Furutaka was apprehended. It's much more logical for them to meet at Shikokuya.'

'But there's still a possibility that they might meet at Ikedaya.' Kondou pointed out wisely. Which I agree. Sometimes,the safest place to be in times of danger is the place which is the most obvious and outstanding. With a move like that,it can easily fool their enemies and provide them a way out.

'Alright then. We will split into two different groups. I will go to Shikokuya.' Hijikata announced.

'Then Toshi,I want you to take twenty four men with you.' Kondou firmly decided.

'Eh? Kondou-san,you are only taking ten men with you? That's crazy!' Hijikata immediately disagreed.

'Haha. But I get Souji,the Nagakura siblings and Heisuke.' Kondou chuckled,looking at the four of us with pride. I grinned. Oh yeah,I'm gonna kick some ass with my brother and two besties.

'Very well.' Hijikata agreed,looking slightly relieved.

'If our group finds them,your group will provide backup.' Kondou strategized and Hijikata nodded in approval.

Soon,we were all setting out to our respective destination.

* * *

><p>We were at Ikedaya,hiding behind the shadows of a dark alley. We noticed a Choshuu peering outside cautiously before shutting the window.<p>

'We hit the jackpot.'

'Is the Aizu Clan here yet?' Kondou asked.

'Not yet.' One of the ten men replied.

'Damn it,what the hell is keeping the Aizu Clan so long?' Heisuke seethed in irritation.

'They're too late.' I frowned too.

'What should we do?' Shinpachi looked at Kondou for further instructions.

'It'd be lame if we let them escape,Kondou-san.' Okita slurred his words ,instigating the men.

'We're out of options. We'll go in on our own!' Kondou commanded and everyone smirked in agreement.

This night is gonna be wild and bloody. My eyes glinted dangerously. It's going to be like that night. But this time..

**I'll be the bad guy.**

Kondou kicked down the front door and roared, 'We are the Shinsengumi,who serve under the Lord of the Aizu Clan!'

The lights in the room were immediately blown off. Footsteps of our enemies scampered towards us.

'By Imperial decree,everyone is hereby under arrest!'

The enemies immediately drew their katanas towards us in hostility.

'We will not hold back on those who resist!' Kondou

shouted.

'AHHHH! Our enemies lunged towards us.

'KILL THEM! Kondou roared and we unsheathed our katanas on his command.

Soon enough, the sound of swords clashing filled the air and the smell of blood overpowered the building.

A man lunged at me and I ducked a few times before I sliced him with my own blade. Another man behind me tried to stab me repeatedly but I stepped to the side and beheaded him. A group of them were starting to surround me and on the same cue, they lunged forward towards me, screaming loudly. Swiftly, I twirled 360 degrees in full speed, slicing each and every man with ease. Their blood was splattered everywhere like a water fountain; on the floor, my coat and my face.

_The red sticky liquid that I once feared was now on me. _

I looked up to see Kondou, Souji, Heisuke and Shinpachi handling the others quite well. I jolted out of my thoughts as I heard a quiet shuffle of footsteps towards me. I sidestepped my attacker and stabbed him by the heart. I retrieved my katana from his body. The man groaned before slumping onto the floor, lifeless.

'Such cowardice. Using sneak attacks." I muttered under my breath.

'It's just like Kondou-san to scream out a warning for everyone to hear.'" Souji mused as he got back to back with my brother.

'YA! A foolish man shouted a battle cry to me, his katana high up in the air. Irritated by their useless yelling, I stuck my blade in his throat before pulling it out violently, allowing the man to choke on his blood.

'It's all good. It's proper etiquette to let them know what they're up against.'" I heard my brother support Kondou's side.

'And putting us at a greater disadvantage? Not bad.'" I huffed before charging towards those cowards and slashed them.

>I had quickly unsheathed my wakizashi while I was charging at them, and slashed them all with the help of the two blades.<p>

'I never heard such logic about having proper etiquette by putting ourselves at a dead end.'" Heisuke yelled.

Now someone is finally talking some sense about this.

I quickly charged up the stairs to the second level, kicking down a door which reveals many bastards who hid in there to protect whatever is left of their pathetic little lives. Tch. And they still boast to annihilate us in a flash. Pathetic egoistic males.

I sinisterly sent them a glare before charging towards them and ending their lives swiftly, so they can meet their death master.

I turned around to see a handful of them near the staircase.

'There's just a bunch of them! Don't chicken ou-' The body of the lifeless leader of the small group fell over the railings, crushing his bones to bits when it hit the floor with a huge impact. I licked my lips. The image of those monsters replaced the group of men that stood before me. Oh, the bliss of having revenge.

'He was saying?'

They all shrank back as I walked closer towards them. One step towards them. One step away from me. I grinned at the terror I've presented towards them.

'Aww.. Don't be afraid of me. I'm just going to stop your pain from life for you.' I smirked maliciously.

I flicked the blood off the blades of my two swords as all four of the remaining men were sliced open, their blood gushing out while they screamed in pain, falling lifelessly on the bloodied floor.

'Passing through.' Souji sped past me, up to the next level.

'No worries!' I sent him a thumbs-up before running right behind him.

'Hey! Both of you are cheating!' Heisuke's voice behind me yelled.

"There's no fairness in the game of life." I chuckled at the sight of him speeding up behind us.

The three of us entered a dark room where we saw two men sitting by the window, watching our men fighting with the Choushuu scum.

'A blond and a redhead..' I widened my eyes at the two men. It was them.

Heisuke and Souji stood before me and went into a defensive stance. They seem to know those men. Just as those men have a flicker of recognition towards them.

'I see we meet again. Kazama.' Souji smirked, gaining the two men's attention.

'Hmph. Again you get into our way.' The blondie aka Kazama stood up and icily stared at Souji.

His intense gaze fell on me as I stared back with mixed feelings.

>It was feelings of thankfulness, yet with wariness. Were they friends or foes? They were with Shiranui Kyo that night. Maybe they are reliable like he is. Or perhaps they are different.<p>

'What do we have here? Our little lost kitten whom we've been searching for.' He purred and started to walk towards me. Before he could even reach for me, Souji and Heisuke had their arms acting as a barrier, protectively shielding me from two men.

'You have no business with her! If you want to take her, you have to go past us first!' Heisuke hollered at them.

'Heisuke, you don't have to-' My words were cut off by the duo who just turned around and winked at me.

'Trust us. We won't let these dirty bastards lay a hand on you.'

Not waiting for me to react, my best friends charged towards those two

>Heisuke taking on the redhead, Souji taking on Kazama. My heart lurched and was in my mouth as I looked at them with worry written on my face. One side were my friends. The other side were my saviors.<p>

'Argh!' I turned to see Heisuke thrown against the door, laying on his back painfully.

'Heisuke!' I cried out and quickly made my way towards him, pulling him up in a sitting position before glaring at the burly male.

'You bastard!' I snarled and began to stand to take on the guy but Heisuke held onto me stubbornly, blood seeping from the corner of his mouth.

'You're a monster!' Heisuke quickly stood on his feet and spat in disgust.

'Hold on!' He held out his hand, signaling Heisuke to stop trying to fight him. 'That's enough. I have no need to fight with you. There's no need for me to take your life if you pull back right now.'

'What's that? Was that a bloody threat?!' I aggressively stood up and barked. 'You maybe the one who helped me that very night. But it doesn't mean that I'll let you get away with this nonsense!'

'You have no need, Amagiri..' Heisuke jerked his head towards my direction. 'But I do have a bone to pick on you! You are picking on my friend and I will put that to an end!'

Heisuke charged towards the red haired, only to have his blade caught tightly in a strong grip.

'Eh?!' Heisuke yelped and tried his best to retrieve back his sword so he could unleash another attack.

Amagiri's eyes glowed red and he hit Heisuke's grip onto the sword. His foot thumped onto the ground with a loud sound before unleashing a powerful punch towards Heisuke's head sash, breaking the rectangular iron plate of the head sash into bits and pieces.

>I widened my eyes in horror, stunned by the display of power.
He landed into a heap of broken walls and doors, blood flowing from his cut forehead.

'W-wait..' He muttered before knocking out.

'Dammit!' I clutched onto my katana and wakizashi, glaring at the bigger sized and stronger man with hatred.

'I do not wish to fight or kill you,**_Oguri_** Yui. It's not the right time for me to take you back.' Amagiri replied with much calmness.

I widened my eyes at the familiar name.

Oguri...Yui...

That little girl's name! Don't tell me that-!

I gasped and clutched onto my swords even tighter.

"Tsk. I would have thought that an oni would be smarter than that. The name's Nagakura Yui. You better engrave that in that thick skull of yours!"

He caught my swords easily. My eyes widened then narrowed. Sweat trickled down my face as I struggled and fought to take control of my blade.

'I see you still don't understand who or what you are.' Amagiri looked at me.

I growled and tried to land a high kick on him, only to have my leg badly twisted and thrown against a wall. Pain seared up from my leg to my entire body. I grimaced at the pain and bit back a scream, not wanting my enemy to see me in pain and tears. I attempted to land another attack when the familiar burning sensation deep in my chest started to pound and crippled my movement.

'What are you talking about!?' I coughed out blood, my eyes never leaving his. "I am born a Nagakura. I lived as a Nagakura. And I will die as one."

"I see that your _so called brother _have yet to reveal the **truth** to you."

"T-the..truth..?"

I forced myself to stand on my feet, ignoring the dull pain electrifying through my twisted leg.

'Looks like I have no choice but to do this.' Amagiri sighed and unsheathed his own katana, just that it looks really terrifying in a way.

I felt my heart compressed and I breathed with much difficulty. I broke out into a cold sweat and my vision was blurred up.

'What...What is that...?' I managed to choke out before falling onto the ground, wheezing and vomiting out more blood. I don't know why but I could just sense that the thing he was holding onto was deadly and horrific to me. And it was not helping my previous situation. The pain was so excruciating. I felt like stabbing myself in the heart to stop the pain.

'This is an oni-slaying sword. Specially made by these humans to defeat us and cut us down.' Amagiri took a step closer to me and I

started to cough up much more blood than before. ''What you are experiencing now is just one of the side effects of this sword when taken out and presented before us. This proves that you are of our kind. Because you aren't really associated with our kind and this slaying sword,you experience this suffering whereas we don't.''

He stood right before me and I gritted my teeth in determination to not allow this stupid slaying sword affect my being. He wasn't making any sense.

''Don'...' I coughed violently,spitting out more blood. ''Don't you kid with m-me..''

''It's up to you if you don't want to believe in me. Don't worry,I won't kill you. I'm just going to injure you as part of the plan.''
Amagiri stamped his foot on my shoulder and I coughed in pain,laying on my back. "If I kill you,**he** would resent me and kill everyone,including himself."

He held the sword high up in the air,directly above my abdomen. The sword glinted under the moonlight before it was stabbed through me,dirtied by my own blood.

An ear-piercing scream resounded in the room,only to realize that it came from me. The pain seared through my body as numbness spread and knocked me out cold like Heisuke.

* * *

><p>~Third POV~

An ear-piercing scream from Yui echoed in the air,stunning Shinpachi for a while.

'Yui!' _Shinpachi worriedly thought before getting his thoughts cut off by the blade of a Choshuu,slicing his muscular right arm.

Shinpachi trembled in anger and shouted a battle cry before slicing every single men at his area dead before dashing up the stairs to find his precious little sister.

'If she is hurt,I swear I'll haunt that person down and brutally kill him in the most horrendous ways possible!'

At the same time,Hijikata's group and Chizuru has reached just in time to see two Choshuu men dead at the doors of Ikedaya and heard Yui's scream.

'Yui!'

''Gen-san,quickly surround the perimeter. Harada,go and take the back. Saitou,go help inside.''
Hijikata commanded and the three captains nodded before taking their group to the respective places.

As they were on the move,the only thing that was on Hajime's and Sanosuke's mind was Yui's scream.

'Wait for me! I'll protect you!' _Were their silent prayers as they

cut down man after man.

* * *

><p>~Shinpachi's POV~

I fled up the stairs only to find Heisuke, Souji and my sister unconscious. My eyes widen when I saw Yui's face as white as paper, her breathing hectic and shallow, her skin covered in droplets of cold sweat. Her mouth was covered in blood and laid beside a vomit of blood.

'Yui!' I shouted and held her in my arms.

Her body was cold! Too cold for any unconscious person! I started to hyperventilate and freak out. I can't let anything happen to her! If she leaves me, I don't know how I can survive life without her.

'Shinpachi! Souji, Heisuke!' I looked up to see Sano and Hajime at the door with tears in my eyes. Their gaze on me traveled down to the pale-looking Yui, their eyes trembling and wide in anger.

'The both of you carry Heisuke and Okita. I need to get Yui down for immediate treatment! Her condition is much more worse than those two!' I scrambled up to my feet, carrying the frail body.

My cheeks were wet with sweat, blood and tears. I carried the fragile body of my precious little sister and dashed down the stairs, out of the building. I saw the rest of the Shinsengumi. I quickly scanned and found Yamazaki standing beside Chizuru.

'Yamazaki! Help Yui! She's breaking out in cold sweat, feverish forehead, pale skin and shallow breathing! What happened? Will Yui be fine?' I rambled all my questions, anxious about her condition.

Yamazaki calmly told me to place her on the wooden plank and he took up her wrist and felt her pulse. What scared me next was that his eyes widened and started to feel her forehead and touched all her acupuncture points.

'We need to get Yui for immediate treatment! Any more delays and she will die!' He yelled for four guys who are strong enough to carry the wooden plank she laid on and they all ran as quickly as their legs could take them to the headquarters.

I felt a hand on my shoulder to see Hijikata, Kondou, Chizuru and the others looking at me in concern.

'Don't worry. Yamazaki will save her.' Hijikata spoke with confidence. "Trust him."

I nodded and clasped my hands together.

'Please don't let anything happen to her...Just not her...'_ I begged silently and prayed fervently for our parent's protection to be on her from above.

* * *

><p>Please read,comment and heart!<p>

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14. Fourteen 14

[Revised Version]

**_I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY PLOT AND OCS
!_
>

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~

Hands slammed against the wooden table. Anger burning deep in those violet orbs.

"What on earth did you think you were doing?! HAH!?" The voice boomed in the room occupied by three men. "Don't you know that one wrong move with that thing and you might destroy her?! Will you be happy if that happened?!"

The blonde sat on his chair,his hand holding onto his smoking pipe.a puff of smoke filled the room.

"Relax,Shiranui." Kazama sighed. "It's all part of the plan. You want her to remember you and be by your side,right? It will work out."

"Yes. I admit,I do want that to happen. But it doesn't mean to place her in danger! She's not exposed to this for years!" Shiranui growled,snarling at his _'acquaintance'._

"She will be fine. After all,she is the daughter of the Oguri family." Amagiri placed his large hand on the violet haired's shoulder.

Shiranui clenched his fist tightly and glared at the duo. "That better happen. Or I'll drag the both of you,along with me,to
**hell**."

**-Somewhere deep in the forest-**-**

The image of a pale,unconscious Yui surrounded by the captains of the Shinsengumi appeared on the large mirror. Sadistic laughter cackled every now and then in the forlorn looking castle.

"My,my. Look at those depressed faces. Just the way I like them!" The male sat upon the throne smirked gleefully.

Hibiki lowered his head respectfully. "However,would you not find those creatures who called themselves the Onis a threat? It is so I gather that her fiance knows of her and us. He might become a dangerous obstacle if not watched and disposed of properly."

"Hmm. You mean that **scum** not fit to be my dear Yui's fiance?

Shiranui Kyo, is it not? Definitely, he is a threat to our interests and plans. But as for now, we should take advantage and manipulate his existence while we can. He is a.. ****valuable**** piece in our game of chess. For him, he'll be the deciding factor whether to speed up the process or just completely destroy them as we planned." The male stroked his chin, a dubious look on his face.

"...You always make such a wise decision, My Lord. That's the reason why I chose to follow you and make you my Master." Hibiki praised, his yellow orbs yet narrowing at the image the mirror presented.

* * *

><p>Everyone gathered in Chizuru's room, solemnly surrounding an unconscious Yui who breaks into a cold sweat frequently.
Her breathing was shallow and her pulse was weak. Sometimes, the unconscious girl would start to cough violently and vomit out blood. There were absolutely no signs of her reawakening.

Yamazaki has confirmed that there was poison in her body even though beneath the patch of blood on her abdomen did not show any trace of a cut or bruise. It was tough for him to purge out the poison from her body as treatment has been delayed and the poison had already reached very near to her heart.

Now they could only hope for the best and that Yamazaki could come up with something to help Yui's critical condition.

>It was a matter of life and death. To quote what Yamazaki had said, "Yui-san.. There's no way of telling whether she'll be okay or not. Right now, it'll depend on her strength to fight. For now, she's at the very edge. A slight sway and everything would change. For the better or the worse."<p>

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

>-In Yui's past memories- _

Her long silky silver hair reached down her waist, skin as fair as snow, big brown eyes and small beauty mark at the corner of her red lips. The gorgeous lady beckoned for me to go over to her side.

That woman was someone I call MaMa. She was a person whom I admire greatly and worked hard to imitate her graceful actions. A gentle yet fair person.

"MaMa." I greeted softly and hid behind her leg, watching the unfamiliar guests carefully.

'Yui dear, greet Lady Katsumi.' She nudged me towards another stunning lady. I smiled politely and bowed courteously.

'It's a pleasure to meet you, Lady Katsumi.'

Lady Katsumi was just as beautiful as MaMa. Her long violet hair stopping short at the middle of her back, her ocean blue eyes were mesmerizing and her pink lips placed into a motherly smile.

"It's a pleasure to meet you as well, little Yui. You've grown up beautifully." Lady Katsumi complimented, causing a blush to erupt on

my cheeks and shy away behind MaMa's leg. "This is my stubborn son,Kyo. Kyo,go and greet Lady Miu."

A smaller carbon-copy of Lady Katsumi appeared,except that his eyes were a color of midnight purple. A scowl was etched onto his face as he whined,"Okaasan!" Turning his head to us,he bowed just like those handsome Princes do in the fairytales.

"It is a pleasure to meet you,Lady Miu."

When he looked up,our gaze met. My lips parted as I got enchanted by those eyes of his. They were so beautiful and mysterious at the same time. A light blush was painted on my face. I broke away from the eye contact and hid behind MaMa's figure further,my left hand placed above my chest to calm my flustered heart.

"Likewise,my dear. Katsumi,you sure do have a wonderful son." MaMa praised the boy. "If I'm not wrong,he's four years older than Yui. Am I right?"

"You are. I wish I have a cute daughter just like yours,Miu." Lady Katsumi laughed softly,her laughter tinkling like bells.

"Yui dear,why don't you bring Kyo to the courtyard to play?"

Nodding at MaMa's request,I shyly approached the older boy,not daring to look at him in the eye.

"L-Lets go." I barely whispered,taking him by the hand and bringing him to the large courtyard.

I brought him to my secret place. It was my favorite place to be when I felt sad or lonely. There stood a large sturdy pine oak tree which was surrounded by various colored flowers.

A warm hand was on my shoulder and turned me around. Once again,I felt myself captured by those stunning purple orbs.

"..You're so pretty." Kyo blurted out before covering his mouth,his face reddening in seconds. My face heated up at his compliment. Instinctively,I covered my face in embarrassment.

Larger hands took mine in theirs and pulled them away from my flushed face. "D-Don't cover your face.." Kyo muttered,his red face staring right back at me in embarrassment. "I-It's cute. I l-l-like it.."

* * *

><p>~Sanosuke's POV~

I stayed by Yui's side,wiping her clammy forehead with a wet cloth every now and then. I sighed and held onto her tiny cold hand. I cupped it near my mouth and blew my warmth breath on it,rubbing her hand gently to keep her warm.

I knew her since young and honestly,I've been crushing on her since I first met her. When I first saw her,I was stunned by her beauty. She looked just like a doll,all pretty. But like wise men say,"Don't judge a book by its cover".

Though Yui may have looked sweet and fragile, she was far beyond that. That girl was a monkey, always climbing up trees and onto the roofs, sometimes throwing a basin of cold water on unsuspecting people especially Shinpachi. Yui is the epitome of a tomboy, defying the stereotypes of our judgemental society that a woman should be ladylike and please men, and stay at home, bear children. She scoffs at the idea and the people who tell her what she is supposed to be. In retaliation, princess will purposely get under their skin, frustrating them to no end with her antics till they gave up on her.

Yui is the joy of the Nagakura family. Shinpachi's parents would always let Yui get away with her pranks and cover her up, enjoying the show presented to them. Shinpachi would say otherwise. He always complained to me, whining that his little sister was mean to him or didn't love him anymore.

I chuckled at the vague memory of Shinpachi clinging onto me and crying about Yui using the wooden sword to poke his butt with a lot of force. And the time when Shinpachi looked at his beloved sister with hopeful eyes, asking whether she loves him, earning a stoic 'no' with no hesitation, crushing his heart immediately.

I smiled at the thought and pat her head gently. I picked up another section of her mahogany turned silver colored hair. It was bizarre. I would have to talk about this to Shinpachi. Speaking of Shinpachi, I sighed. That will happen if only he is not locking himself up in his room.

"Sano-san? It's time for our shift, let's go!" Heisuke's voice called out.

"Alright!" Looking back at the female, I leaned forward and kissed her forehead.

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

_**-Yui's past memories-

>_

>The news of Lady Katsumi and Kyo coming to visit us again sent me flying around the house in excitement. Kyo.. I've missed him so much!<p>

"Haha! Now now, Yui dear. Calm yourself down first and get ready." MaMa's soothing voice cut it. "You wouldn't want Kyo to see you in your night dress, would you?"

Looking down to see me dressed in my pink dress with bunnies on it, I yelped and ran towards my room to change.

"Yui, sweetheart. I've already picked out your clothes. It's on your bed."

"Thanks MaMa!"

On my bed laid a cute silver colored kimono with pink butterflies printed on it. Donning it on, I felt beautiful. The way it complements my porcelain complexion and the pink butterflies bringing out my pink colored eyes.

Unable to wipe off the grin from my face,I hurriedly tie my hair into two low pigtails then dashed down to greet the visitors who had just entered the house.

"It's nice to meet you once again,Lady Katsumi." I stood next to MaMa's graceful figure and bowed politely.

'Hello there,Yui. My,you've grown much prettier! Why don't you and Kyo go out and play? He was really excited to come here to be with you.' Lady Katsumi winked and teased Kyo who was red in the face.

'Okaasan! Enough! RiRi,lets go and play.' Kyo took my hand into his and dragged me out to our secret place.

'Kyo-chan!' I yelped as we suddenly stopped in our tracks,me being the clumsy one knocked into Kyo's back.

Kyo let go of my hand before rubbing the back of his neck awkwardly.

'What is it,Kyo-chan?' I tilted my head to the side,clueless of what was going on.

He reached out from his sleeve and took out a pretty flower headband.

'I m-made it for you.'

I gasped in delight. It was beautiful! I gazed at the baby breath and forget-me-nots,with a few white roses standing out. They were my favorite flowers.

"Kyo-chan! It's so pretty! How did you know that these are my favorite flowers?" I gazed at him curiously,watching him gaze everywhere but not at me,fidgeting a lot.

"I-I ..-w ..li-..-m" Kyo mumbled incoherently,fiddling with his fingers,not daring to look at me.

"Kyo-chan? I can't hear you."

He gazed at me,his cheeks rosy and his purple eyes burning at mine.

"I-I saw you looking at them all the time! A-and I thought..I thought you would love them.. Because y-your eyes...they will sparkle every single time."

My pink eyes widened at his boldness and flushed,staring at the handmade flower crown.

Kyo-chan noticed.. A smile crept to my face,my heart beating very fast and hard. I did my best not to squeal just like when PaPa will tell me those fairytale stories when I am about to go and sleep.
>I wore it on my head and shyly asked with a red hue dusted on my cheeks,'D-Does it look nice on me?'

His face immediately turned as red as a tomato and held me in his embrace before kissing my nose softly,earning a surprised squeak from me.

'You look nice in anything..''

* * *

><p>Please read,review and follow!

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15. Christmas Special Part 1

_**I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OC!
**_

**P.S. THIS IS JUST FOR LAUGHS**.

* * *

><p>"Hwua! It's snowing.." The pink eyed girl awed,her eyes never leaving the wondrous sight.<p>

The courtyard was covered in white snow,giving the area a sense of purity. Just looking at the scene makes you feel at ease,like there's nothing that's going to ruin the serene atmosphe-

**"OKITA SOUJIIIIIII! NAGAKURA YUIIII! GET YOUR BLOODY ASSES RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW!" **

Multiple birds and animals within the hearing range flew and scampered away frantically from the once peaceful headquarters.

"Pfft."

"Bwa-"

"Ffff-"

Snickers filled the meeting room as a raging Hijikata fumed at the duo.

"Make any other sounds and I will personally end your life." A inhumane death glare was shot towards the spectators. They froze in fear and not a peep left there lips.

All except for the twin troublemakers.

"Wow. Nice look you got there,Hijikata-san. Never expected you to swing that way." Yui struggled with her laughter.

"Great makeup,Hijikata-san~" Souji purred,grinning widely at the Lieutenant who had steam pouring from his ears and nostrils.

"BOTH OF YOU DID THIS!" The furious man roared at the two.

The reason for his anger was quite...well.. It was understandable.

It was one fine morning. The birds were chirping,the crickets were

singing,the frogs were croaking,the cows were mooing,the chicken were clucking,the _Hijikatas were Hijikata-ing..._

You get my point.

But fate ,along with Souji and Yui as a cameo, had decided to play around with the unsuspecting Oni lieutenant.

The poor stressed out male woke up to find himself in a feminine body,rather than his toned muscular structured one. Turning to the mirror,he shook in anger at the sight of his abused face. Heavy makeup was applied and the mirror cracked in response to the sight of his appearance. The situation irked him to no end.

The first thing that came to mind and did was this.

***"OKITA SOUJIIIIIII! NAGAKURA YUIIII! GET YOUR BLOODY ASSES RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW!" **

While he fumbled around his usual clothes,only to find his newly formed chest bulging out unnecessarily. Every time Hijikata tried to squish those..boobs into his shirt,his kimono sash would always undo itself the very next second.

A vein mark popped out at the side of his forehead. Scrambling around his room,he struggled to find clothes that will fit. To his utmost dismay,none did.

Beyond angered,he wrapped his blanket around his body and stormed off to the meeting room.

"I wonder what made Hijikata-san so upset and furious.."

"Souji,imouto. What did the both of you do again?"

"Whatever do you mean,Shinpachi-san?"

Boiling at Souji's "innocent" denial,the hot blooded Lieutenant slammed the door open. The people lounging in the room froze at the sudden drop in temperature. They stiffly turned their heads towards the door where an icy aura is leaked. Meekly glancing up,their jaws dropped and turned to stones.

Literally.

Kondou was the first to recover from the shock. He opened and closed his mouth several times,not knowing how to respond to the sight.

"E-er.. Toshi.. Why are you not in your clothes?" Kondou knew better than to comment on the face. But he and the rest didnt expect that to happen next.

"Why..? Why? **WHY**?!" The rest visibly flinched after getting out of their initial state of shock. "I'll tell you why! No,I'll show you why! It's because of this!"

On that note,Hijikata furiously tore off the blanket from his naked figure.

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Shinpachi and Heisuke had blood splurted from their nose like a fountain before fainting in shock.

Sanosuke slapped his face and groaned.

Kondou stuttered with a tomato red face,fainting as well at the sight.

Hajime and Sannan widened their eyes and averted them quickly with a visible red hue on their cheeks,holding up the fallen blanket and crawled underneath it.

Souji and Yui,whereas, blinked once and twice and another time. An awkward silence fell upon the room. Alas,a snort broke it.

The duo started to snicker,trying their best to silence their rambunctious laughter. Though a peep or two fell from their lips every so often.

And that aggravated the man.

Now coming back to the present,the Lieutenant huffed in frustration,and of course wrapped up with his blanket.

***"BOTH OF YOU DID THIS!"**

The duo held their hands up.

"That's unfair! You can't just accuse us without any evidence!" Yui started off.

"Just because something bad happens, doesn't mean that we automatically have something to do with it." And Souji ended.

Hijikata had an unimpressed look on his face and crossed his arms across his barely covered chest.

"And did you have *_anything_* to do with this?"

The both visibly flinched.

"Well.."

"As much as we would like to take credit for **all** these since it is so ingenious,we can't."

"The only thing we can take credit for is the face."

Matching sly grins were wiped off immediately with a hard bonk on the head with a certain someone's katana sheath. "***AND YOU'RE PROUD OF IT?!" **

"Sheesh..Why you gotta be so rude?" Souji mused,rubbing the huge bump on his head.

"Maybe kami thinks that you're too rough. That's why he gave you such a present. To bring out a more feminine si-" Yui yelped and clutched onto her head,her body twitching in pain with tears gathered at the corner of her eyes.

"Finish that sentence," Hijikata growled deeply as the aura surrounding him darkened immediately with a shadow casted onto his face. "And you'll wish that you were never born."

A stray hand reached out from behind and groped Hijikata's large chest. The Oni vice-commander stiffened,an irk mark bulging out at the stray hands roaming on his body.

***"KUA!"**

***"AHGH!"**

***"MERCY! MERCY!"**

There laid two unrecognizable forms somehow etched onto the wall.

"Pfft- You two deserve it. Rest in pain,Shinpatsu and Sano-san." Heisuke snickered gleefully at the pathetic forms of the two members of the Baka Trio.

"Damn it.." Sanosuke groaned.

"You darn brat! Get yer bloody puny ass here!" Shinpachi yelled angrily.

***"BOTH OF YOU..."** The duo flinched and froze at the terrifying voice.

"Psst. Sano." Shinpachi whispered to his best friend while not moving an inch.

"What is it?" Sanosuke whispered back,a bead of sweat trickling down his neck.

"It seems like Hijikata-san is having that thing women have every month."

"You mean the mood swings?"

A dark figure loomed over them,a squeal leaving their lips. Hijikata aggressively clutched onto their heads and effectively knocked them together several times.

"You bastards.. Just because you're frozen,doesn't mean you're not here**. I CAN FUCKING HEAR YOU DAMN PERVS!*" In one motion,he threw them both into the cold snow,with them wearing nothing but a thin vest and pants.

Kondou and Chizuru sweatdropped ,and Sannan propped his glasses up onto his nose. Souji and Heisuke burst into fits of laughter whereas

both Hajime and Yui sighed at the idiocy of the two grown men.

The mahogany haired female pinched the bridge of her nose.

"Dumbasses. Someone, anyone, please get Hijikata-san something to wear. No matter how funny I find it to be, I do not wish to taint my eyes further at this sickening sight displayed by him."

"None of our clothes would fit him with those big bouncy boobs..
GEH!" Heisuke fell back with a chopstick stuck onto his forehead, foam coming out of his mouth.

"Now lets calm down for a moment." Kondou pat Hijikata on the arm lightly, a strained smile appearing. "Yui-chan, Chizuru-chan, why don't the both of you go and buy an outfit for Toshi to fix this...odd predicament."

"A-"

"I would but I wouldn't want to." Yui waved her hand dismissively, cutting off Chizuru. "I don't like big breasted women." She then glared right at the chest of Hijikata.

I'M NOT A WOMAN DAMMIT!

"Oh but you are."

LISTEN TO ME YER BLOODY IDIOTS!

"Please calm down, Hijikata-san." Hajime calmly cooled the fuming quick tempered leader. Till a stupid cat came along and fueled the flames back again.

"Hijikata-san should go and become a _geisha_ instead." Souji purred maliciously. "You'll get many patrons."

FOR THE LAST TIME! I'M NOT A WOMAN!

Citizens who walked past the headquarters looked at the building with a dumbfounded expression.

These Mibu wolves were not just ordinarily weird. They were eccentric weird. And to think they were the ones who kicked the Choshuu butts..

The Choshuu must have been really really really weak to have been defeated by these weirdos.

* * *

><p>I wish all of you a very blessed
Christmas!

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16. Christmas Special Part 2

_**I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS NOR THE SPECIAL GUEST! I ONLY

OWN MY OC!**_

**P.S. IT IS JUST FOR LAUGHS.**

* * *

><p>Chizuru hummed a tune as she cleared the twigs,fallen leaves and flowers into sacks. Deciding to take a short break,the brunette stopped her actions and looked at the courtyard. The courtyard,freshly covered in white snow, gave off a mystical feeling. The sight of sakura trees showered in snow makes one smile in pride at the beauty it gave off.<p>

"Hmm.. Chizuru-chan?" The lass turned to see Heisuke and the rest of the captains,asides from Hijikata,Sannan and Kondou,looking at her with slight confusion.

"What are you doing? Standing there and staring off into space like an idiot. Maybe I should start calling you _baka-chan_ eh?" Souji smirked.

"E-eh..?" Shinpachi smacked Souji roughly on the back.

"Stop teasing Chizuru-chan like that,Souji! You really have such a **warped** personality." Shinpachi laughed heartily at his own comment. "But it is worrying.. Why were you spacing off,Chizuru-chan?"

"Eh? Um... Well.. I was just thinking how beautiful the headquarters is..with the snow." Chizuru flushed in embarrassment.

"It is, isn't it?" Yui grinned and pat Chizuru gently. "That's why winter is my _**favorite**_ season of all!"

"Eh? I thought you like autumn the most?"

"Wasn't it spring?"

"..Guys. I-"

"Yeah,it's really beautiful,isn't it? It's so white!" An unfamiliar voice drifted in the air,the captains cautious.

"Did you hear that?" Heisuke questioned with a doubtful voice,not knowing if that was just part of his imagination.

"Yeah.." Yui agreed then facing her brother. "Was that you,Shin-nii?"

"Huh? No.."

"That's strange.. Only _you_ will make a stupid remark like that."

"Oi! I take offense to that!"

"No one cares,Shinpachi."

"Not you too,Sano!"

"..Now is not the time for petty talks." Hajime sighed heavily. "Stay alert. There's an intruder."

"Oh look! Those are sakura flowers! Awww how pretty those lil things are! Oh oh oh! Maybe there'll be blue ones, purple ones.. **YELLOW**! ..No. Yellow and snow?_ Nu-uh_." The voice continued on with its rambling.

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"Yeah.. Intruder." Souji laughed whereas the rest were seen with a perplexed expression. "A _dumb_ one is what we got."

"You know, it's quite rude to talk behind a snowman's back.. Ah no, not behind. In front of a snowman? Ehhh.." The group looked down to see a snowman.

A talking snowman.

"KYAAAAAAAA!" Chizuru shrieked and instinctively kicked the snowman's head.

The head of the snowman landed into Shinpachi's arms. The snowman looked at Shinpachi's horrified face and smiled cheerfully.

"Hello there!"

"Wah!" Shinpachi hurled it to his best friend, Sanosuke.

"Keh, you're creepy!" The red head shuddered and threw it to Heisuke who yelped.

"WHAT?!" Why did you have to pass it to me!?" The teal eyed male tossed the head to Yui.

As they tossed the head to one another, the snowman's body run around scattered. "Please don't manhandle my head like that."

"Oh my shit! The body is moving!" Yui slammed the head against the body.

Souji unsheathed his sword and smiled a sadistic smirk. "Ooo! A free dummy to kill!"

Right after the snowman assembled its body parts properly, Souji immediately sliced the snowman into halves.

All was quiet till a voice spoke out. "Hmm.. I feel like half of me is missing. Would all of you mind to find the other half of me so i can feel complete?"

"I-it's...! It's-!" Chizuru staggered backwards, her face pale before she faint promptly.

"Chizuru-chan!"

"What's with all the ruckus?! You guys aren't kids anymo- Chizuru!?" Hijikata immediately went towards the unconscious girl at the fastest speed he could manage in a female kimono.

"Well, this is awkward." Half of the snowman ran around the courtyard while the other half flail around on the ground. "Woah woah woah!" It exclaimed with the blade close to its..snow..fluff..thingy. "Don't need to be rough. Don't need to be rough. I'm just a normal snowman. I mean no harm. Not that I can anyways. Sven always says that I'm too nice to be evil. But then again, Sven is a _funky_ donkey."

_ 'Normal...snowman...donkey!?' _ The group sweatdropped.

The snowman finally got itself back together and pat its body lightly. "Now that I'm complete. Hi! I'm Olaf. And I like warm hugs! Oh oh and summer! How I love summer! The sun, the flowers.."

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"...snowman...s-summer?" Heisuke stuttered.

"You've never experienced summer, have you?"

"Nope! But I would love too! I heard that a snowman in summer is a happy snowman!"

"Huh is that so? Well actually-"

"Hmm.." Shinpachi scratched his chin before snapping his fingers excitedly. "Ah! A sandman!"

Sanosuke sighed at the stupidity of his friend, face palming himself. "How..clever of you."

"It seems like idiocy runs in the blood of the Nagakuras." Hajime coolly shot several arrows at the Nagakura siblings, both stiffening with a hurt expression.

"OI! DON'T LUMP ME UP WITH THAT IDIOT! HE MAYBE STUPID, OR IS STUPID, BUT I AIN'T SO!" Yui fumed at the accusation, a vein popped at the corner of her forehead as her eyebrows twitched agitatedly.

"HWA! THAT'S SO MEAN OF YOU!"

"Hmm? Then RaRa-chan~ What would 'snowman' and 'spring' give you?" Souji wrapped his arm around her shoulders.

"Eh? Isn't that simple? It's _flowerman_!" The males had their eyebrows twitching at the answer.

"What about 'snowman' and 'autumn'?"

"_Deadleafman_! **DUHHH**!"

"Oooo! Imouto! That makes so much sense! You're so smart!"

"Take a note or two,Shin-nii." In unision,everyone except the siblings face palmed themselves and groaned.

"...Yep."

"You're right,Saito-san."

"They're equally idiotic."

"They're just all brawn and no brain."

YAHHHHH!

SHUT UP AND STOP MAKING A RUCKUS,DUMB AND DUMBER!

OH YEAH!? WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR PRETTY LIL ASS TO THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT AND SERVE THOSE PERVS,YER WOMAN!

I AIN'T A WOMAN!

"Well your attitude sure isn't helping,Hijikata-san~ "

"Yeah you sound like those crazy old grandmas back there in Edo.."

SHUT IT!

Olaf laughed at the chaotic scene and grinned happily. "Well,there's no reason to fight. Just say that all of you are equally dumb! Now you don't have to fight for the title of being dumb!"

The rest of the non-idiotic males had a tick mark on their heads at the innocent comment of Olaf.

"Oh is that so?" Souji feigned a smile,raising his blade. "Why don't I show you what happens to solid water when it gets warm?"

"Souji.."

"I will soak this thing in boiling water,oh I will."

Heisuke took the twig -Olaf's hand- and bend it in various angles. "How does this work?"

The twig immediately smacked Heisuke on the cheek painfully,the boy yelped and let go of the twig,holding onto his cheek.

"No touching! Trying to focus here."

"Damn yer..! I was thinking of changing Okita-san's mind but now I changed my mind.. I'll give you to our horses for them to eat!"

"Oh oh oh! I know now!" Olaf happily skipped in front of Heisuke. "I couldn't figure it out for awhile but now I have! You're a raccoon -an **ugly** one though."

"HAHHHH?! COME YER YOU BASTARD!"

Olaf just ignored the jumping Heisuke and waddled to Shinpachi. "And you sir, you look like a Hippopotamus. I mean, look at all those_fats!_"

"Pfft- Shinpachi... H-hippopotamus..!" Sanosuke clutched onto his stomach, tearing up at the unintentional verbal assaults on his two friends.

"THEY AREN'T FATS! THEY ARE MUSCLES! MY GUNS! MY BABES! MY LOVE!"
Shinpachi yelled, defending his abs and biceps.

Olaf then stood before Souji who gave it a smirk. A smirk that said_ 'I dare you to say anything demeaning about me'_. "You're definitely a cat."

A second passed..and another..and another. The captains were all waiting for the snowman to add on any offensive comment but it made no initiations of doing so. Thinking he has won, Souji smirked gleefully.

"Well thank y-"

"But you're a sly nasty one!" Souji froze at the comment, his lips twitching.

_ 'The nerve of that snowman..!' _

"I remember meeting a sly nasty cat and it was so awful! It sliced my poor nose into bits and pieces!" Olaf sobbed, caressing its carrot nose tenderly.

"I will do just that, yer lil brat! I will slowly melt you and make you into *_carrot soup_*!" Souji rolled up his sleeves in an intimidating manner.

"Souji, stop getting your feathers ruffled by that thing." Hijikata sighed.

"I'm a cat, not a bird."

"Hm.." Olaf looked at Hijikata with great concentration, changing its position every so often. "Hm.."

"Ah.. You're a dog."

"...Souji.. Make that carrot soup *_extra*_ boiling hot."

"Osu!"

"And a Merry Merry Merry Christmas to everyone! Teehee!" Olaf giggled without knowing what was in store for the snowman.

* * *

><p>Blessed Christmas to all of you
readers!

17. Extra Olaf Moments

"..." - Means singing.

**The lyrics belong to their rightful owners.**

* * *

><p>"Bees'll buzz, kids'll blow dandelion fuzz

_And I'll be doing whatever snow does in summer." _

"What does snow do in summer?" Shinpachi ruffled his hair.

"They don't do anyth- Oh I know! They **MELT**,you doofus."
Souji,Heisuke and Sanosuke sniggered at Yui's comment.

_ "A drink in my hand, my snow up against the burning sand_

Prob'ly getting gorgeously tanned in summer."

"Then why is that thing thinking about suntanning itself?"

"Because it's dumb!"

_ "I'll finally see a summer breeze, blow away a winter storm._

_And find out what happens to solid water when it gets
warm!"_

"Yeah,yknow what happens? They become **WATER**." Souji
interrupted.

_ "And I can't wait to see, what my buddies all think of me._

Just imagine how much cooler I'll be in summer."

"You won't get cooler.. You're melting! You'll get hotter,sheesh."
Heisuke banged his head against the pillar due to the singing
snowman.

_ "Dah dah, da doo, uh bah bah bah bah bah boo_

The hot and the cold are both so intense,

Put 'em together it just makes sense!"

"Actually.." Sanosuke began. "It **doesn't** make any sense.
Especially when it comes from a snowman."

_ "Rrr Raht da daht dah dah dah dah dah dah dah doo_

Winter's a good time to stay in and cuddle,

But put me in summer and I'll be a... happy snowman!"

"Nope. You'll become a puddle. A sad one."

_ "When life gets rough, I like to hold on to my dream, _
_ Of relaxing in the summer sun, just lettin' off steam." _
"...The steam part makes sense." Hajime nodded.
_ "Oh the sky would be blue, and you guys will be there too _
_ When I finally do what frozen things do in summer." _
"For the last time..frozen things only melt in summer."
"I'm gonna tell him."
_ ***"Go ahead."**_
* * *

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18. Fifteen 15

[Revised Version]
A/N : Do you want incest between Yui and Shinpachi?
I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! ONLY MY OCS AND PLOT!
* * *

><p>~Souji's POV~

Yamazaki was hiding something from us. And I'm gonna force out the entire truth from him. By hook or by crook. If there's anything serious, we will need to know it first hand and not keep it hidden.

>I quickly ran out after him to see Yamazaki walking towards our gates.<p>

'Wait, Yamazaki-san!' I called out and ran towards the man who stopped in his tracks, waiting for me.

'Can I help you, Okita-san?'

'What exactly is wrong with RaRa-chan? Spill it out.'

'I've told you what you need to know just now.' Yamazaki replied in a monotonous voice and I frowned at him not budging.

'You know you can't lie to me, Yamazaki-san. What exactly is wrong with her?' I glared, standing firm to force out the information he was hiding.

"I know nothing of what you say." Came his obstinate reply. A sigh then followed after.

>'Though I wish to disclose this to all, especially Shinpachi-san, however that would go against the protocol. Her particulars are absolutely confidential and I need to have her

consent to tell you all. All I'm going to tell you that she's sick. Seriously ill.' '<p>

' 'Obviously she's sick and ill! Look at her!' ' Frustrated,I gripped onto Yamazaki's collar and half-yelled. His eyes flashed a look of fear and widened,before returning to his neutral and calm state.

' 'She's not sick due to the poison. It may seem that the illness has been evident for quite a long period of time and is worsening as time goes by. I'm guessing that she herself knows about it. Please excuse me.' ' Yamazaki calmly removed my hands from his clothes and dusted them lightly. He gave me a half-bow courteously before walking away from me and out of the headquarters.

I watched him leave as questions filled my mind and were left unanswered. Sick not due to the poison? A long period of time? Worsening? Yui had an illness that we didn't know of? Is that it? How could it be? She looked fine and healthy. And boy,she can pack a punch. How on earth is she sick?!

Dejected by the lack of information,I made my way towards her room,only to see her looking pale and thin,just laying there in the futon not moving an inch.

I sat beside her and moved a loose strand from her once cheeky looking face. I recalled those times when we always bickered with one another,laughed at jokes,spar together,played pranks on the other captains. Especially that one time when we both crept into Hijikata's room and snuck out his poetry book. Yui read out one of the poem and looked at me with a clueless yet cute face. And that time when she read out a love poem she found in Hijikata's book that was dedicated to Chizuru in front of everybody as a form of revenge towards him. Hijikata went red in the face and started to chase after her while she continued to recite the poem dramatically,running around in circles to escape Hijikata's wrath. I laughed at the hilarious moments and looked at her unconscious figure. She had her face grimaced and started to cough out dryly,coughing out blood that splattered on the tatami mat.

I silently took up the wet clean cloth from the basin beside me and cleaned her mouth gently before wiping the stain off the tatami mat.

I recalled the memory of our first meeting. I had gotten pissed at her attitude towards Kondou,threatening her life and yet she did not even flinched. Instead,she met my eye and gave me a cold hard stare. When I saw her eyes that day,I was stunned. Her eyes looked tired and sad. It was as if she had witnessed many things that she wished to forget. It showed a vulnerable girl deep inside instead of the cold arrogant woman on the outside.

And when she talked about what happened to her parents,thinking what she said was a joke,I sneered at her story. I had expected her to cry like any other weak women. She was strange. Yui had gazed at me with so much intensity at that time,I had nearly thought I was gonna die that day. Those eyes filled with hatred and her words sent to me were filled with spite and distaste.

Yui was interesting. Maybe that was why I started to hang out with

her more. The more I hanged out with Yui,the more I get surprised by her. The way we hit it off easily shocked me. She accepted me for who I am. She didn't look down on me or chide at me when I told her that I enjoy killing people. Rather,she laughed and said she understood how I felt,how killing brings adrenaline pumping in our blood.

After that nightmare we witnessed that very afternoon in the courtyard,I saw her crumple down and it pained me to see her in that way. That night,I tried to apologize to her. And believe me,she tried to bite my head off due to the hostility present between the both of us since the very beginning. Yui didn't trust me. She trust no one,except Shinpachi and maybe Sanosuke and Heisuke. Other than that,she made sure to keep her distance.

But eventually,we made peace and were now close friends. I chuckled and caressed her cheek. Though she would still make acidic remarks to me and act cold. At times,she is warm. The next moment,she becomes cold. But that's what makes it interesting.

"Well,yer better wake up soon!" I stood and dusted my clothes. "Or I'll molest you in your sleep where yer can't gimme that horrible sucker punch. Feh,that's memorable." I laughed at the many occasions when she ruined my face or knock me off my feet with excruciating pain accompanied along. "Hurry and wake up. We still have a duel to find out who exactly is better."

"Then again. I'm always the best,ye?"

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~

Another day has passed. Another day Yamazaki has checked up on Yui. Another day she remained unconscious. The atmosphere in the room was heavy than ever. All was quiet except for Shinpachi's worried ramblings.

'Why isn't Yui up yet? Can't you do something about it,Yamazaki-san? If anything happens,what am I suppose to do? I-I can't live without her... She is still too young.. -parents will..' Mumbling the last few words,he made his way back into his room,isolating himself from the rest without even waiting for Yamazaki's answers.

Everyone looked towards Shinpachi's dejected figure pitifully before looking down,not uttering out any words. They were all worried. Beyond worried. But they know that as terrible as they feel right now,Shinpachi is suffering a hundred times worse.

Though the gang and Yui had not met on good terms, she was part of their family and that means that they care for her deep down. Now,not even just worrying about Yui,they had to watch out for Shinpachi. During the past few days,he had neglected his health. He just either stays in his room or weep inside Yui's room,asides from going for his daily patrols. He doesn't eat on time and eats very little,not touching much. They could also tell that Shinpachi wasn't sleeping well either. He had very obvious dark eye bags under his dull blue eyes which used to sparkle merrily. His face had grown much slimmer and looked very weary. It seems that he himself has given up on life when Yui was still in her unconscious state.

To say that the duo were close would be an understatement.

A certain dark skinned male crept into the young woman's room. He held his breath when he saw her. Though pale and thin, her beauty still shone brightly.

Kyo knelt beside her and held her small hand up to his lips. His violet eyes never leaving her face. He felt lost. The yearning for his mate to awaken and remember him. Yet the want for her to just be safe and sound. How could he choose?

It is true that it wouldn't matter if she didn't recognise him. So long as her life is safe and can continue to live, it is fine. But.. To watch her living without him by her side, taking another male as her lover. _How cruel._

Kyo smirked bitterly at the thought. If it happens, he might kill himself and not risk the ascertained pain. The scenario pained him. His large hand caressed down her cheek to her lips. The lips that he has kissed millions of times.

The dark skinned male leaned forward, his lips hovering right above Yui's.

"I love you. To the point it hurts." He smiled a wry smile. "Be safe, my sweet, love and mate."

With that, Kyo sealed his lips with hers.

"May we..come together as one again.."

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~
*_**_**

>-Yui's past memories-
*_**

>"RiRi! Hurry up! The puppy is just right there." The violet haired male jumped up and down, gesturing for me to quicken my pace.

We had discovered a dirty, injured yet adorable looking puppy licking its wounds at our secret place. Sharing a love for dogs, we had quietly made our way to the wounded pup, only to scare it off with its wounds untreated.

_At the moment, we were running after the dog to prevent its injuries from being infected.

>'Kyo-chan! W-Wait for me!'' I panted heavily before tripping over a stone and crashed against the dirt filled ground.

''RiRi!''

I whimpered at the sharp pain at my elbows and knees. Blood trickled down from the cuts and stinging pain shot through my body as the cold wind harshly slapped at them. Tears gathered at the corner of my eyes. I wasn't the strongest oni and therefore my wounds do not heal easily. PaPa and MaMa would always tell me that it's a sign that my life mate would be a strong protective one who will always protect me, and that I am lucky to have a mate like that.

_I heard footsteps rushing forward and a figure knelt before me. Kyo

looked at my wounds worriedly._

"Why aren't you healing,RiRi? They should have healed by now." I flushed and look down in shame,thinking that Kyo would despise me for being weak.

"I-I'm not strong enough.. They heal really slowly.."

_Once I finished my sentence, I felt a change in auras. Glancing up,my mouth parted in awe. Before me was Kyo in his real form. His silky silver hair,glowing red orbs..

>He took my right arm and leaned forward to lick my wound.

_"K-Kyo-chan.." I watched him licked my wounds and how they heal instantly.

>Kyo met my gaze and pressed me onto my back ,pinning me to the ground.

_"Don't feel ashamed of being weak." Kyo tilted my chin up. "In fact,I prefer you to be like this. That way,I can take care of you and have you to rely on me,and only me."

>He caressed my face softly and I felt flutters in my heart and my stomach. This tingly feeling is always here when Kyo is with me,I wonder why..

"You're mine,understand?" Kyo leaned closer,my face bursting into various shades of red. "Say that you are mine."

"I-" I stared into his eyes. Is this..what they meant by 'love'? My eyes glowed red instinctively as the inner Oni deep inside broke free from its binds. My arms wrapped themselves around his neck and pulled him closer.

_"I'm yours. I'm yours for eternity,my **mate**."
>

* * *

><p>He stood tall and proud. A man with blonde hair and golden orbs. Beneath his authoritative facade is a man full of laughter and wisdom. And a man who is attention seeking.

''PaPa!'' I shouted excitedly, running straight to the blonde man and launched myself to his legs. "You're back! I missed you so much!"

''Aww my little Yui misses me~'' He cooed,planting a kiss on my forehead. I smiled happily and giggled.

PaPa always travel,leaving me and MaMa behind in our mansion. Everytime I ask him why he travel so much,he tells me that it's not for children like me to know. I huffed at his response every time.

_"Actually,I don't miss you PaPa. I just miss the bag you're carrying." PaPa froze and twitched as if he had been shot in the heart millions of times before retreating to his hamster corner. His hamster corner is just a corner in our house where he starts to shred paper while sulking. He goes there at least once a day. Or maybe

twice at least._

_ "I can't believe my daughter, my precious own blood, actually prefers a bag over me! A bag! A non-living thing!" He sobbed to himself uncontrollably. PaPa then snatched up his bag and gave it an evil stare. "Bag! I order you to tell me in what way you are better than me! I cannot let you live anymore since you stole my daughter away from me! You- **GAH**!" _

_ MaMa stood behind PaPa with a dented pan, her eyebrow twitching. "Why on earth are you making so much noise!?" _

_ "E-Even MaMa is mad at me.." PaPa whimpered and hugged his legs to his chest pitifully. "My entire family is against me.." _

_ "Yui." MaMa sighed in exasperation. "Why didn't you do anything to stop PaPa from this stage?" _

_ I blinked several times before beaming at her. "Because it's amusing to see PaPa like that."

>
"NOW I'M A JOKE TO MY PRINCESS!"**_

* * *

><p>'Yui dear.' I looked up and saw my parents standing at the doorway to my room.

_ 'MaMa. PaPa." I smiled brightly at them and ran towards them, glomping them as tight as I could._

_ 'Haha! My little princess, we are going out to have picnic. Go and dress up prettily, and then we'll set off. Ok?' PaPa patted my head gently and laughed when I perked up at the word 'picnic'._

_ 'Really?' I delightedly shout out, my eyes sparkling with happiness. 'YAY! We're going picnic!'" _

_ 'Haha! Now, let's get you dressed up so we can go and have fun.' MaMa smiled at me before closing the door on PaPa._

_ **"YOU CLOSED THE DOOR ON ME?! MY NOSE! WHYYYY!?"** PaPa whined from outside my room._

_ Soon, I was all dressed up in a pink and orange kimono, my long mahogany hair tied up in a feminine bun, accessorized with a long pin to secure the shape of the bun._

_ I looped my arms around MaMa and PaPa's hands, joyfully skipping lightly towards the nearby lake which laid many beautiful sceneries to awe at._

_ 'Uwah! So pretty!' I giggled before running in small steps towards the clear blue lake where lives many different types and colors of fishes and swans that sit on the waters elegantly, gently swooping down their curved necks towards the waters to daintily take a sip._

_ 'Yui! Don't run away too far off! We don't want to lose you.' I heard MaMa's voice as she and PaPa lay out the picnic stuff._

"Okay MaMa!"

My curiosity got the better of me and started to make my way towards a strange light,not realizing that I was getting further and further away from MaMa and PaPa. Out from the trees, a masked man jumped in front of me,seizing me in his tight grip.

Frightened and not knowing what to do,I screamed at the top of my voice for help. Yelling and hoping for MaMa and PaPa to hear me and come to rescue me from the scary man.

The masked man slapped me across the cheek a few times,whispering harshly to me to shut up and was about to drag me when PaPa appeared in front of him.

''Let my daughter go,human. What have we done that you have to target my princess?'' His voice was seething with anger,his fists curled up and tightened up into a ball. My whimpers increased his anger by tenfolds, especially when the masked man held a small knife to my face,nicking me on the cheek.

''You onis living here will only bring destruction and trouble to this world! We must kill any young ones of your kind so we can stop your multiplication!'' The masked man replied in an agitated tone and digging his blade into my skin so roughly that I couldn't help but cry out in pain. For PaPa to save me.

The next thing I knew was that I was back into PaPa's embrace and the masked man gone. I cried and saw MaMa rushing towards us,her face contorted with worry.

''I-I'm s-scared..!''

PaPa hugged me tighter and bounced me gently,cooing to me to not be afraid.

_''It's ok now~ You are now safe with me and mommy. No one will hurt you when we are around,ok? My little princess,please stop crying~'' Daddy sang and tuck back the loose strands of my hair behind my ear,giving me funny faces and I choked on my tears,laughing foolishly at his expressions.

>

* * *

><p>We are the Onis. Existed long before humans did. Immortal and powerful. And that is why humans fear us. They would do anything to get rid of us or be as strong as us.

Though we are peace loving Onis, we are still targeted by hostile humans. Because a monster is still a monster, regardless of their speech and action.

It made me wonder..whether there will come a time where the two races will compromise and live harmoniously and peacefully.

_I crawled towards PaPa and sat on his lap with a questioning look on my face. Kyo and his parents were sitting opposite of us.

>PaPa rubbed my head before hugging me tightly. I took a glance at

Kyo who was staring intensely at me. I flushed a deep red and hid my face against PaPa's clothes.

"It's a great pleasure for Lord Haruto, Lady Katsumi and little Kyo to be here in my mansion." PaPa nodded politely at Kyo's family, a faint mischievous smile on his face.

_Lord Haruto burst into a hearty laughter, PaPa soon following after.

>"You are still the same, Kenshin. As uptight as ever- and especially cunning. Hohoho!"

"I just wanted to give you a scare. Being serious really takes the dango."

"Ah. I can't believe I forgot your immense love for dango."

"Haha! Now lets get straight to the point. About the.. engagement." I cocked my head to the side at the word 'engagement'. I turned to Kyo who was beaming happily,a red hue on his cheeks.

'I'm really sorry,my princess." I turned my attention to PaPa. "You're so young yet we have already planned your engagement to Kyo. You understand what situation we are in,right?''

'To keep our line of stronger pure-blooded onis by marrying to our own kind which has not been diluted by human blood.' I recited out the reason.

'Thank you for understanding,my precious princess.' PaPa rubbed my head before letting out a hearty chuckle. ''But then again,don't you like that boy?''

_I flushed and avoided looking at Kyo,covering my face out of embarrassment.

>"P-P-Papa..!"

PaPa and Lord Haruto bellowed loudly while MaMa and Lady Katsumi hid their smiles behind their fans. I pouted sulkily at them.

"Alright,enough with the teasing of our children. Kyo, why don't you take Yui out and play?" MaMa softly nudged me towards Kyo. I whined and clung onto MaMa, not wanting to look at Kyo.

"Hai, Lady Miu." Kyo confidently carried me up in bridal style, a small squeak left my lips. He brought me out to our place,the last words I heard from the adults were "Young sweet love."

_"Kyo-chan?" I looked at him confused. We had already reached our place but he hasn't placed me down on the ground yet.
>"Mmph-!" My eyes widened at the sensation of Kyo's soft lips moving against mine. Pink dusted my cheeks as my eyes fluttered, half-lidded.

Slowly we parted, keeping our gazes locked. Kyo then gently sat me on the grass, pinning my body beneath his. His violet hair slowly faded to silver as his eyes glowed red.

_ "I'm so happy. To have you as mine for eternity, I'm really the luckiest man on earth." Kyo's sweet words made me turned my head to the side shyly._

_ "I-I'm the luckiest person a-as well, Kyo-chan." At my words, his eyes widened then he started to grin widely._

_ "I'm g-going to give you our engagement mark. Y-you do the same too.." Kyo stuttered with blushing cheeks. I giggled and transformed myself._

_ Kyo leaned forward and licked my neck softly, just as I did to him. Mentally counting down, we revealed our fangs and slowly sunk them down into each other's necks at the same time. A warm pink glow surrounded us for a few seconds before it faded. Our fangs left our necks, panting slightly at the amount of energy used up in the process._

_ "R-RiRi.." My eyes fluttered up towards his awe stricken face. My eyes widened considerably at the mark on his face. It has the image of thorns creating a shield around the flower. "You look beautiful.."_

_ Kyo reached up to touch the area beneath my left eye while I reached up to touch his mark beneath his right eye._

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~

A pale slim finger reached out and slowly brushed aside a loose strand of silver hair from Yui's face. His narrow yellow eyes fixated on the unconscious figure he was sent to monitor.

"..I wonder why mi'Lord is so interested in you." Hibiki mumbled under his breath, recalling his master's orders.

_ "Hibiki!"_

_ "Yes,my Lord?" The male bowed forward, his right hand over his heart._

_ "Go, and check up on her. Never leave her side. When the time comes, you shall retrieve her."_

_ "Master? What would we do if the Onis managed to instill back her memories?"_

_ Silence engulfed the room, the tension increasing tenfold. "That's where your sacrifice comes in, does it not? After all,"
>The sound of a chess piece knocked off the board reverberated.
"There is no value in you or any other pawns. So long as the objective is achieved, none of this matters. I.. Still have many left in hand. Without one, doesn't make any difference."

_ Hibiki's yellow eyes widened in shock at the words uttered by his master that he had loyally served for years._

_ "Hmm. Are you ,perhaps, stunned by my speech?" His master purred

slyly. A wrong move and it would be all over. Everything Hibiki had worked hard for, would go down the river._

"..No master." The yellow eyed male dully responded.

"You have promised to give your life to me, have you not?"

"Yes master."

"Then that means that I could use your life in any way I want, am I right?"

"Yes master."

"I'm being reasonable, correct?"

"Yes master."

"Then go, and make sure you do as what I say. When I ask of you to die.. Go and kill yourself and rid of your existence."

"..."

"Hibiki."

"**"..Yes. Mi'Lord."**

"I do pity you, Lady Yui." Hibiki sighed out. "If only you hadn't caught his attention.. Maybe everyone that you loved would be spared."

An emotion flickered past his eyes as he took up Yui's left hand, gently laying his lips on her soft skin.

"I shall apologise to you right now for whatever that is going to happen in future, Lady Yui. May you find heart..to forgive my actions."

"It's time for me to say _au revoir_" Hibiki said under his breath, the sound of heavy footsteps approaching. "Don't worry. I'll always be somewhere nearby."

Just as the door slid open, Hibiki vanished into thin air, leaving no trace of his existence in the room.

Chizuru entered her room that was shared with the unconscious girl, along with Kondou, Yamazaki, Sannan and Hijikata.
>The four men wore on solemn expressions as they sat down beside her unconscious body while Chizuru wore on her worried one.<p>

'How is she, Yamazaki-kun?' Kondou asked worriedly after Yamazaki finished checking up on Yui.

'I'm not sure either. But today is the last day for her to awake. If she doesn't wake up by today, we have no choice but to...'' His sentence trailed off, everyone knowing what it meant.

To end her misery by their own means. It was probably much better than allowing her to continue to struggle in pain. Right?

'B-but...! You can't just do that!'' Chizuru exclaimed agitatedly, standing up for the girl whom she has..- sort of bonded well with for the past month.

Hijikata held onto her tight to control her emotions, burying his face against her shoulder.

'We are concerned for her, Chizuru. That's why we are making such decision...To put her out of her torture from being half alive and half dead.' He explained, hugging the weeping girl towards him tightly and stroked her hair gently.

'Or there is another way..' Sannan quipped. 'Is to use that medicine.'

Everyone in the room widened their eyes, wanting to protest against such measure, only to be interrupted by a loud bang of the door which revealed an angry, tear-stained Shinpachi.

"What do you mean by that..?" Shinpachi's low voice sent shivers down their spines. "I said..**WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU MEAN BY THAT!?**" Chizuru yelped, flinching considerably.

Kondou and Hijikata stood up and held their hands before the enraged male. "Shinpachi. Please calm down."

"To even think of doing such a thing, are you guys even **humans**!? No one is gonna touch her or do anything to her! I'm her brother and I refuse to allow anyone to be near her anymore!" Shinpachi gritted his teeth with much pain from his heart, his arms protectively hugging around Yui, his tears shining with sadness and anger, his heart full of hope for his sister to awake.

'Shinpachi, it isn't like th-' Kondou tried to explain, only to be cut off by Yui's brother.

'**SHE WILL**-.. She will be fine.. There are so many things that are yet to be told.. Things that I need to come clean with her. That's why.. **THAT'S WHY!..** She can't die on me yet.." Shinpachi yelled before whispering hoarsely the last line as if to comfort himself, turning his back against the five of them, rocking Yui in his embrace protectively.

Knowing that they had to give Shinpachi some alone time, they quietly left the room - along with Chizuru's sniffing - leaving Shinpachi in his own world.

'No one is going to harm you, imoto... Don't worry, nii-chan will protect you with his life. Wake up, ok? I know you won't abandon me here alone.. You can't leave me, do you hear me? You're the only kin I'm left with. I can't live without you.. Come back.. Give me that beautiful smile of yours.. That foolish laughter of yours.. I need you here.. Please..' Shinpachi whimpered softly, hugging his sister in his embrace, himself falling asleep with tears streaming from his eyes, his heart breaking into bits of hopelessness.

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~
_

>-In Yui's recollection-_

''Kyo-chan?'' I sang out,looking around to find my fiancée.

Suddenly my eyes were covered by a pair of hands and a familiar voice rang out.

''Guess whoooooooo~?''

I giggled and pretended to think.

''Hmm...Kyo-chan?'' I guessed in a kiddish voice,rewarded by a sudden kiss on my cheek.

''Bingo!'' Kyo kissed my cheek again warmly before trailing his kisses towards my lips.

I flushed and held onto his arms that were around my shoulders.

''Your lips are sweet..'' My fourteen year old fiancée murmured against my lips and the nine year old me just blushed heatedly at his comment,whining softly.

''Don't tease me like that,Kyo-chan~!'' I pouted against his lips and he pulled away,laughing that charming voice of his.

''I'm sorry,my beloved RiRi. I can't help it. You're just too cute that I wanna eat you up!'' He growled and I feigned a scream,running away from him as fast as my short legs could take me to but only to be caught by him.

''How dare you try to run away from me,RiRi? I shall give you your punishment!'' He kissed my neck before blowing warm air to my sensitive ear. I shivered and struggled out of his grip.

''I-I'm sorry,Kyo-chan! I just wanna run back home to take the gift I prepared for you. I forgot to bring it out..'' I pouted cutely and swunged his arm,acting cute.

''No no no~! You're staying with me!'' He hugged me tight and rested his head on top of mine. ''You being here with me is the best gift I can ever have!''

''B-But I prepared it with a lot of effort..'' I hugged him back,sadly muttering.

His Adam's apple reverberated as he groaned loudly in frustration,on hand around me while the other ruffling his hair in a mess.

_''Argh..Fine..But be back quickly ok? I can't have you away from me for too long. I'll die. I swear if you don't come back,I'll ignore you forever!'' Kyo pouted childishly and I couldn't help but to giggle and kiss his pout. He broke out into a small but sweet smile. Kyo reached into his pocket and took out a necklace with a heart shaped locket charm. "Here.." The cool chain rested on my collarbone. He leaned back and looked at me with a smug look before pointing at his own chain with a key charm. "Now we match. And now, only I can be

in your heart."_

''It's so pretty! Arigato,Kyo-chan! And I know,Kyo-chan~! I'll be back as soon as I can! Promise!'' I smiled cutely before running towards the direction of my house as fast as I could.

Soon,I entered my house and quickly dashed into my room,rummaging through drawers to find my gift for Kyo. As I did,I heard loud chanting from outside and before I knew what was going on,fire was creeping through my window,smoke invading my lungs as I started to cough and tumble on the ground,gasping violently for air.

''Yui!'' I heard PaPa's and MaMa's worried and choked voices as footsteps neared towards my room.

I looked up and saw their figures nearing towards me. PaPa picked me up and MaMa hugged the both of us.

''Yui,my princess. Before we do this,I hope the time when you remember us again,you will understand that we did everything for you and love you with all our lives. I'm sorry,my princess.. PaPa and MaMa loves you.''' PaPa whispered before kissing my forehead,tears dropped onto my face. He passed me to MaMa and she did the same.

_Then,together they chanted and I groggily passed out. PaPa then used the very last of his power and teleported me to a house,both him and MaMa burning in the fire while tearing at the loss of me..

>
"M-Mama... P-P-PaPa.."**_

**"...Kyo.."**

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~
**

>A couple along with their kid were on their back from their dinner when they noticed an small figure laid before their door. Approaching cautiously, the sight of a female met them. Her clothes were dirtied and certain parts were burnt. In her hands were a nicely wrapped box and a letter. The head of the family took up the letter that was addressed to them and read it, a gasp of horror left his lips. He then passed the letter to his wife who had the same response. The older Nagakura male picked up the young girl and brought her into their house. The younger Nagakura tilted his head in confusion. The female knelt down and caressed her son's head gently.

"Shinpachi.. This girl is the daughter of our .. acquaintance. Her parents were attacked and have entrusted her into our care. So from now on, she will be your sister. Treat her with care and love, okay?" The fifteen year old boy nodded and ran into the house to catch another glimpse of the pretty young girl who was going to be his sister.

A couple of hours later, the girl woke up in a room, flustered by the unfamiliar faces that were leaning close to her. She squeaked and had her back against the wall, her body curled up into a protective manner. Her pink eyes flickering between the three faces, anxiety and uncertainty evident.

_ 'W-who are you? W-w-where am I? Who am..I?" The couple's smile faltered for awhile,looking at each other before replying in a kind voice._

_ 'We are your parents,Yui. You were staying with your grandma and when you were returning home,you got knocked out by bad people. This is your brother,Shinpachi.' ' They backed away revealing a brown haired boy with mischievous blue eyes that sparkled._

_ 'Uwaahh! Yosh! I'm Nagakura Shinpachi, your older brother! I'm fifteen years old this year so you are my imouto!' ' He shouted in joy and climbed onto the bed I was on and gazed at me. 'I'm very strong so I'm going to protect you with all my life and not let any bad guys bully you again!''_

He smiled that mesmerizing smile and I couldn't help but smile back shyly ,nodding happily.

_ 'Thank you..nii-chan!''_

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

I stirred awake and found my body so stiff. I groaned and cracked the stiffness of my neck before looking at the man laying on my lap.

I stifled a chuckle and caressed his hair gently,smiling at that childish action of my brother.

_ 'Really..' _I thought and couldn't help but giggle.

He stirred up and fluttered those beautiful blue eyes of his,staring at me for awhile before yelping and holding tight onto my shoulders,staring at me in shock.

''**YUI**!''

''Shhh!'' I shushed him before I cocked my head to the side. ''You are as noisy as ever! It's only been a day and I feel so sore and stiff!"

''Actually, it's not a day. Almost a week to be exact! I knew you wouldn't leave me alone like this!'' He loudly whispered and hugged me tight,wetness spreading on my shoulder.

"Huh?" I blinked several times, processing the words.
**"Ehhhhh!?"** I slapped my hand over my mouth. "Seriously?"

"I wish."

"Dammit.'' I looked down at my clothes and stuck out my tongue in disgust. ''No wonder I stink so badly! I'm gonna go get a shower and you are gonna keep watch for any men going into the public showers,okay?" Shinpachi laughed and nodded, his eyes forming crescents.

The flashback of my past ran in my mind and my smile stiffened.

>
'Nii-ch.. No, Shinpachi.. How could you lie to me for so long..?'_

* * *

><p>Read, review and follow!

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19. Sixteen 16

[Revised Version]

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OCS AND PLOT!

* * *

><p>~Third POV~

Shinpachi held Yui by her wrist firmly, babbling about the stuff that she did not understand. Either that, or she could not be bothered to listen. They reached the dining room only to have Yui flinch. The room emitted black waves of animosity, the female reeling back instinctively.

Yui involuntarily shivered and glanced at Shinpachi who just smiled back goofily. The pink eyed sweatdropped while Shinpachi dramatically flung the doors open.

'Chizuru-chan! Yui is hungry so could you make her some food to eat?'

Everyone stared at us - excluding me- with mixed expressions of confusion and worry.

'...Yamazaki. Go get Matsumoto-sensei so that he can open Shinpachi-san's brain. I suspect that there is a clot of stupidity latched onto his pea-sized brain."

'OI!?"

"O-oi... You sure you guys hadn't placed some kind of a barrier or ward to keep me away right? I'm pretty sure that I'm not a ghost. I still have my feet. I can feel them."

"Y-YUI!?"

Spots of black filled her vision as her spirit left her mouth. The rest could see swirls in her eyes and her leg twitching slightly.

**'YAH! GET OFF MY YUI! YOU'RE HURTING HER! YOU BUNCH OF ASSHOLES!'
**Shinpachi shrieked and was about to get off with his legendary long speeches when Souji just gave him a headlock and covered his mouth.

>The others above Yui quickly got off and Hajime and Sanosuke helped her up, propping up her barely conscious body. The female shook her head desperately to gain back her consciousness.<p>

'Don't get started on your speeches,Shinpachi. You'll be getting too old for your own good.' Souji winked at the mahogany haired's direction and muffled noises could be heard from Shinpachi.

'Do you guys seriously want to put me back in coma again? I thought you might want me back to annoy the shit out of all of you,from what I've heard from NaNa-kun..' Sheepish laughter could be heard. In the background, Shinpachi continued to shake his fist and ramble on with Souji just smirking and covered the bigger sized male's mouth.

'But I'm glad you are finally awake,Yui.' Kondou's eyes sparkled brightly.

'Oh I do know,alright. I thought you guys had hung some of those weird papers or something of that sort to keep me away." Yui sarcastically retorted back though her voice held a tinge of fondness.

'Welcome back RaRa-chan. You don't know how bored I was without you here to help me tease our lovely couple here.' Souji smirked towards the blushing Hijikata and Chizuru. Yui raised her eyebrow.

"I can't say that I'm surprised. But it's quite shocking to know that it happened so early. So," Yui smirked at the couple. "Who confessed first? Chizuru-chan is too shy and a stuttering mess. As for Hijikata-san..."

A vicious aura surrounded the said oni lieutenant. "You got a problem?"

>Yui just made a gesture towards him,sighing heavily. "Yeah. You can see where I'm going."

Hijikata had a vein mark popped out at the side of his forehead,raising his fist slightly. "Where do you think you're going?"

"..I need to find my _savior's dog's puppy's cat's fish's algae_. I received news that my _savior's dog's puppy's cat's fish's algae_ is in grave danger." Yui crossed her arm and made the most serious face she could master. The captains snickered. Hijikata had a slight grin on his face for half a second.

'Here you go,Yui-chan' Chizuru handed Yui a packet of medicine.

The latter stared hard at the hateful packet. And she stared more and more intensely. A gust of cold wind blew past the mahogany haired who deadpanned.

"..What.. Just what is this monstrosity..?" The brunette just sweatdropped and laughed softly.

"It's medicine."

"No, I know what it is. But...****why****_ are you giving it to me..?"

'Because Hijikata-san told me to give it to you.' Chizuru replied.

"Just because Hijikata-san says so doesn't mean that it makes a valid reason!"

'Just eat it,RaRa-chan. It won't kill you.' Souji snickered at Yui's aghast reaction and swallowed the powder with ease.

'The pain from cuts and bruises fly away once you take some Ishida Sanyaku!' Heisuke dramatically endorsed the medicine and quickly gulped it down before making a gagged face. Yui paled at the teal eyed's facial expressions.

'Ishida Sanyaku is special in its own way.' Sanosuke ruffled the seemingly traumatized female's hair softly and laughed charmingly.

'Hijikata-san's family specializes in it.' Sannan quickly gulped down his tea,along with the powdered medicine.

'Hijikata-san ,huh?' Yui raised her eyebrow. "Doesn't that make it even more _dangero_-..." She flinched at the dark sinister look and poured the powder into her mouth before trying to cough out the disgusting taste.

Hijikita glowered at Yui and raised his clenched fist.

'Care to see if what Heisuke said is true?'

'Nope. No thanks, I'm fine. I can take care of myself."

'And caused you,Heisuke and Souji to be injured.'

'They were just lucky. I'll get him next time.' Souji and Yui spoke the same words, smirking diabolically.

'Sometimes...I just wonder if Souji was actually Yui's biological brother. They both love blood and are very arrogant of their skills.' Shinpachi sighed before he yelled out in pain. In the background, Yui cracked her knuckles and smiled a sickening sweet smile.

'You were saying?'

'Fuck you...'

'No thanks.'

'Based on my research,unconscious people will have dreams of their past or lost memories. So Yui-kun,surely you had regained some of your memories as an oni while you were out. Is that right?' Sannan inquired,propping up his spectacles.

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

Everyone's eyes were focused on me as I shifted my weight onto my legs uncomfortably.

'I recalled everything..' I muttered out softly and their eyes

widened and Kondou urged me to relate my past to them.

>I gulped unwillingly,my hands gone all clammy and were trembling as I kept my gaze on Shinpachi.<p>

'No need to force yourself to tell us if you don't want to..'

Incredulously,Hajime's voice not only eased my frantic thoughts and calmed my nerves,his soft calm voice also gave me the courage to tell my story.

'My real name is _Oguri_ Yui,not _Nagakura_ Yui. And.. I am an oni. My oni family was wiped out by humans who burned our house down while we were in it because they were afraid and jealous of us. To protect me, PaPa and MaMa used their remaining life energy to brainwash me and suppress my memories of them before teleporting me to the door of the Nagakura's, their .._acquaintance_. And my parents perished in that fire...'

>My fists clenched and unclenched themselves.<p>

"The Nagakuras found me along with a note addressed to them. They brought me in and when I awoke, they told me that they were my family. A story that I was staying with**_ 'my'_** grandma and attacked on my way home."

I stared straight at Shinpachi who was pale white, frozen in his seat. "...Isn't that right, **brother**?"

"..Y-Yui, I can ex-"

"_You knew_, Shinpachi.." I cut off his sentence, my lips quivering slightly. "And I was like a fool.. Living in the life weaved by lies." His blue eyes were fixated to the floor, ashamed. "I know you and..and them.. You guys had good reasons to do that but- I trusted all of you.. You didn't even hint to me that I wasn't related to any of you.. How could you lie to me for so long..? Were you even going to tell me if I never regain my memories?"

I blinked back my tears and stood up from my seat.

"I'm..going to cool off." I muttered and left the room, sliding the door shut roughly.

>A sigh escaped from my lips as I walked aimlessly in the courtyard, finally stopping before the old cherry blossom tree. I watched the pinks flutter softly along with the wind. A small flower detached itself from the tree and landed onto my cupped hands gently.<p>

"In a bad mood?" My eyes widened and turned to my right, Shiranui Kyo staring right back with a small smirk.

>I opened my mouth to speak then closed it when no words came out.<p>

What was I feeling? What did I want to do? Was it love and happiness? Or sadness and pain? Did I want to run over and hug him tightly, saying how sorry I am millions of times? Or did I want to punch him hard for not telling the truth to me earlier and make me hurt him? Or.. Do I just want to run far away from him?

His long slender fingers lifted my chin up to face him. I was so overwhelmed by my thoughts and feelings that I did not notice when he had approached me.

"Don't show that face." I blinked my eyes in confusion. "I hate it when you always try to keep in your feelings and suffer by yourself. Didn't I tell you before? I want you to rely on me. I want to protect you. Won't you let me..do so?"

Tears leaked from the corner of my eyes. Kyo gently wiped my tears away and took the flower from my hands, placing it behind my ear.

"Welcome back, my love."

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~
>The room was deafening silent after the mahogany haired female left. Shinpachi remained frozen whereas the others looked to and fro.<p>

"S- Shinpachi?" Sanosuke cautiously shook his best friend by the shoulder. "O-oi!"

"..It's true." The blue eyed male mumbled. "I lied to her for so long. I enjoyed her company so much that I..selfishly kept the truth away from her. I wanted to live in the lies my family has created. I was so afraid that she would leave if I told her everything. And now..there's no doubt that she'll leave and hate me."
>Shinpachi messed his hair up, his eyes tightly shut.<p>

"..Is that the kind of person she is?" Heisuke questioned quietly. "I might not have known Yui-chan for as long as you did. But for the few months I've known her for, she is definitely not the person who would forget all the goodwill you have shown to her just because of the lies that were spun to help her parents."

"I agree with Heisuke." Souji carried on. "The way her eyes flashed the pain of losing your parents and witnessing the deaths. It shows how much she foolishly treasures you all. Leaving and hating you? You are much more of a _fool_ than I thought of you to be, Shinpachi-san."

Shinpachi just silently gripped onto his pants, his eyes flickering with various emotions.

"Heh? Shinpachi-kun looking so depressed? That's impressive! It absolutely turns me **on** with that expression of yours. Funny how you look more depressed as compared to when I shown you examples of how your parents were murdered. You intrigued me, Shinpachi-kun." The captains immediately turned towards the source of the mocking voice, their katanas sheathed out. The intruder raised both of his hands up in mock surrender. "Now now, there is no need to get all so rude and hot."

This time the captains had a better look at the man who ordered for the brutal murder of their two soldiers. He has scheming narrow yellow eyes and short olive green hair, his bangs covering both of his eyes slightly. He wore a forest green yukata kimono with silver patterns embroidered on. He was not tall, perhaps around Hajime's height.

"Why are you here? To kill off more of our men?" Hijikata venomously

spat, Kondou holding onto Hijikata by the back of his shirt.

"Oh no! No no no. What kind of person do you take me for?"

"Someone worth much less than dirt."

"**Nfu nfu nfu!** Then why are you all so agitated and cautious over someone worthless hmm?" The olive haired snickered and plopped his body onto the cushion Yui once sat on, making himself comfortable by taking the teapot and filling the empty cup. "Oh I can just smell Yui-chan's scent! So sweet and alluring- She's finally awake eh?"

"What do you mean, you vermin!?"

"No need to be agitated, I'm just showing my concern. Plus I'm just here for a visit. I realized that it has been - hmm how long has it been - two months? And I found out that I forgot to introduce myself to you all, my wonderful audience, formally. I am Hibiki. It is a pleasure to meet you."

"Cut the bullshit and state what you want!" Heisuke snarled as his temper rises increasingly.

"Hibiki.. _Echo_" Hajime looked at Hibiki, suspicion written on his face.

"_**Ding ding ding**_" Hibiki sang. "We have a winner!"

"Winner..?"

Hibiki just smirked at the confusion. "You can't possibly believe that I'll come into the enemy's area without any defence. Just a head start, there is someone else seeking for Oguri Yui. Someone far more dangerous and a person who holds a grudge against you. You won't win against him- unless you *****"

"WHO?!"

"Whoops! I've said too much. No worries, I'll just get rid of you." Hibiki's left eye glowed and turned luminous blue. "_**Amachi Chakujitsu Technique : Song of Repression!**_"
>Hibiki opened his mouth and sound waves emerged, knocking off everyone onto the ground, their hands clasped onto their ears while writhing in pain.<p>

"W-wh-..This...!?" None of them could break free from the binds that were wrapped around them. The sharp sound piercing their eardrums and restraining them from grabbing onto their katanas.

"Yknow, the more you struggle, the more energy you'll lose." Hibiki crouched over Shinpachi, patting his cheek lightly with a smirk. The olive haired then stood up, dusting his clothes, watching his victims struggling hard.

"I would kill you off. But it wouldn't be fun for me anymore." Hibiki held his hands behind his head, a bored expression donned on as he walked out of the room.

>"You should thank Lady Yui for making me spare you." The

yellow eyed male mumbled under his breath, teleporting himself away from the headquarters.

"W-wait.."

In the unknown's castle

A chess board was roughly thrown onto the ground. The chess pieces spilled across the hallway. Standing above the mess was an angry man.

"That worthless lil-! I will skim him alive! No! I will.. I will dump him into a pot of hot boiling oil!" The ruby eyed male raged, his teeth gritted and his fists clenched so tightly that his veins could be seen.

He unsheathed his katana roughly and walked down from his throne heavily, a murderous aura surrounding him. The enraged one looked at his servants lined up all the way to the door, their heads bowing down.

Blood splattered across his face and robe, his blade swishing down violently at his unexpecting victims. Screams of terror filled the air as servants fell one by one but none made a move to run from their mentally ill master.

A sadistic laughter rang out in the now silent room. Dead bodies were littered on the ground. Blood was smeared across the walls and floor. The only one standing lifted his blade up and licked the dripping blood off with a diabolical smile.

The ruby eyed dropped his sword into a puddle of blood, slowly heading towards his throne. There he sat on his throne, observing the image before him. The male turned to his giant mirror and waved his hand, white mist engulfing the mirror.

"Hibiki. Return ****now****."

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

The boat rocked gently against the waves. Early autumn wind blew past our faces as we isolated ourselves in the middle of a lake no one goes to.

"I don't ****hate**** him or my adoptive parents." I gazed at the scenery. "In fact, I'm grateful to them for bringing me up. It's just at that moment-"

"I know. You aren't the person to turn your back on someone just because of that. You are far more kind." Kyo's voice held a tender note, making me look up to him to meet his love filled gaze.

I bit my lips and glanced at him. "Aren't you angry or hurt? ..I forgot you and I left. I didn't keep my promise.."

"I was." I flinched at his monotonous voice. "But..at least you aren't dead. I can still see you, hear you , touch you."

>His hand caressed my cheek gently, setting my face aflame.<p>

We sat there in silence, listening to the birds singing and soothing sounds of waves.

"If you still feel guilty then you can do something to make it up to me." Kyo had a sly smirk on his face. I raised my eyebrow at him.

"What would that be?"

"Kiss me."

"Eh? Ah.. Kiss- **HUH!?!**" Flustered, I scrambled in my seat, causing the boat to move shakily. "W-w-what are you talking about?!"

"C'mon it's just a kiss! We do that all the time!"

"That was like years ago! Oi don't come over! The boat will-!" A loud splash came after, along with the sputtering of water. "Look what you've done! I'm all wet now.."

"Ho? I haven't even done anything erotic yet."

"URUSAIIIIIII!"

* * *

><p>â-«Amachi Chakujitsu Technique : Song of Repression - A technique used by Hibiki and anyone from his bloodline. 'Amachi' means Imperial rain and is his family name. 'Chakujitsu' means sound . This technique is used to restrain one's movement and is used to paralyze a person. It is performed when Hibiki opens his mouth - sound waves will emerge and form into bindings around his victims. When his victims struggle, the invisible binds absorb their energy and the energy would then be transferred over to Hibiki. If Hibiki uses this attack technique with high intensity, it can kill his victims. This is just one of his most common technique he relies on.

Please read, comment and heart!
>Many thanks to those who support this story!<p>

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20. Seventeen 17

_[Revised Version]

**_I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OCS AND CERTAIN PLOTS!_
>

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~

"Dammit! That guy got us for good!" Heisuke hissed in pain as Yamazaki attended to his minor wounds on his arms and legs.

Chizuru attended to Hijikata who had a dark serious face plastered on. The rest were resting - some downing medicine, some sipping tea with a few bruises evident on their skin.

"Yeah, that song of whatever bullshit it was really took a toll on us." Sanosuke agreed in a solemn voice.

Souji clicked his tongue in annoyance, "I'll get back at him the next time we meet."

"Whatever it is, it is evident that he is a big threat to us. We will have to remain alert and vigilant at all times." Hajime added on. "Captain, what do you suggest us to do?"

"Hmm.." Kondou hummed and touched his chin. "For now, lets not make a move. It's best for us to monitor the situation and gather as much information as possible. Toshi, what do you think?"

Hijikata grunted and folded his arms. "Yamazaki. Shimada. Go and gather his whereabouts and who he is working for. If your identity is discovered, retreat immediately. Don't fight back."

Yamazaki and Shimada nodded their heads, their right hand above their left chest. "Understood." The both then immediately evacuated from the meeting room quietly .

"The rest of you, be on your guard. Whether you are doing patrolling or you are back in the headquarters, if you see any suspicious figures or actions, report to Kondou-san , Sannan-san and myself." The captains nodded at the command, saluting their leaders.

>
"Ss-!" _The burly blue eyed male hissed in pain.

"Shinpachi-san! Are you ok?" Chizuru rushed to his side, taking up his left hand he was hugging to his chest. Sanosuke and Heisuke leaned towards their good friend, deeply concerned.

"Oi! You 'k?" Sanosuke patted Shinpachi's back.

Heisuke continued,"Shinpatsu is an old man eh? Can't withst-"

"Ah!" Chizuru reeled back, her mouth covered by her hand, her face contorted in shock. Burned onto Shinpachi's wrist was a tattoo with ancient inscriptions. His hand was red, the veins bulging out more than usual.

"What the..." The people in the room were rendered speechless. Shinpachi glanced at the mark worryingly.

"Sannan-san." Hijikata turned to the bespectacled man with a look of seriousness. "Go to all the libraries you can find, scholars, doctors, anyone you can find to figure out what this mark represents and what implications it brings along. The rest of you check yourselves for any similar markings."

"None."

"Not at all."

"All clear."

"Nope."

"Harada, Souji, both of you go and bring back Yui. If there's someone seeking for her, we will need to keep her in a tight leash. And Saitou." Hajime averted his attention towards his Lieutenant. "Follow me and Kondou-san." Hijikata and Kondou rose from their seats and walked out of the living room. Hajime bowed and followed after.

"I'll go and get something to ease your pain!" Chizuru bowed and rushed out of the room as well.

"Well," Souji closed his eyes, his mouth slightly turned upwards. "RaRa-chan wouldn't like the way Hijikata-san has phrased his words. _Keeping her in a tight leash? _Man, he always give us the hard jobs."

Sanosuke nodded in agreement. "Princess really hates being binded to something. She will fight her way out of it to get her freedom back. It has always been the case since she was young, right Shinpachi?"

"Ah.." Shinpachi had a nostalgic smile on his face. "When people tell her what a female is supposed to do and forced it on her, she will make sure they'll never leave without any bruises."

"Uhuh. I'm thankful that I don't have that job. Sheesh..it'll be an awful pain!" Heisuke complained.

"Well," Souji started grinning. "I can always say that it **is **Hijikata-san's orders. Maybe I'll get to see a show of Hijikata-san getting his arse kicked."

Sannan softly spoke out in a bemused tone. "Instead of spouting off rubbish, I highly encourage you to go find Yui-kun. As for me, I will be making a couple of visits if you may excuse me." The bespectacled man gracefully stood up and left the room.

"He is right." Sanosuke nodded and stood up, holding onto his spear. "We need to go as soon as possible. Shinpachi and Heisuke, take over mine and Souji's shift."

"Got it!"

"You have no problems with that, Shinpachi? That mark is rather worrying." Sanosuke frowned. The bright blue eyed male glanced at the tattoo momentarily, his eyes flickering with emotions. He then brought his left hand behind his back and laughed loudly.

"Problems? Not at all! Such a thing won't kill me. Maybe Heisuke but not me for sure!" Heisuke immediately jumped onto his feet at the accusation directed at him.

"Oi! Oi Shinpachi-san! You were the one who was hissing in pain earlier-" The duo began their daily bantering back and forth, causing

the other two in the room to look at them, sweatdropping.

"..Sometimes I truly question myself as to why I'm best buds with these two idiots and how they are captains." Sanosuke facepalmed himself.

"Say Shinpachi-san." The emerald eyed male got up after the redhead. "What would you do when we bring her back?"

The said male stopped his banter, silent for a moment and responded with a heavy sigh. "I'll just pray that she'll forgive me and my parents. Other than that, I'll protect her from those who are after her."

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~**

"Achoo!" Sniffling, I wrapped my arms around myself, casually throwing in a stick to the fire we had lit up. Kyo was hanging up our soaked clothes on several tree branches to dry while we continued to brace the wind in our inner wear.

"Ugh.. I feel a cold coming up." I coughed out in a nasal voice. Kyo then sat behind me and embraced me, his warmth gradually transferring to my body. His long slender fingers gently combing through my hair, a sigh of contentment escaping my lips.

"This reminds me of the good ol' days. Me taking care of you every single time." Kyo chuckled. Automatically, my lips lifted into a smile at the sound of his laughter, snuggling closer to him.

"Really? Tell me more."

"More?" Kyo hummed. "Lets see. You were pretty annoying. Quite bratty as well. Going on and off in that high pitched voice of yours and talking about dolls and playing house. And you also love to scratch me! Ah, I remember that one time where you were so vicious that the scratch mark you gave me looked like I was clawed at by a tiger!"

"Jerk!" Huffing, I pushed him away, a pout on my face at his teasing. "Stop lying, mister stranger."

"Alright alright. Truth is that you were smitten by my good looks and kept chasing after me. I mean, who could ever resist a man who looks like this?" The dark skinned male grinned flirtatiously, earning a loud smack on his face, the man groaning in response.

"Egotistical." I suppressed my smile and rolled my eyes at him.

Kyo got up and wrapped his arm around my shoulder, "If I wasn't egoistical, you wouldn't have fallen for me." I shuddered at his words and playfully punched him on the arm.

"Yeah because I would be walking properly and be scar free. Thank you so much."

Kyo rolled over onto his back, his hands cupped behind his head, just gazing at the sun setting. I mimicked his actions and made myself comfortable on the bank of grass, admiring the beautiful scenery.

"You know," I turned my head to face him. "What happened to you when you were unconscious was an extremely dangerous action. I didn't agree to that at all. Yes, I would love it for you to remember me and be by my side again. Yet I just wanted you to be safe and sound. I thought to myself that it wouldn't matter if you didn't recognise me. So long as your life is safe and can continue to live, it is fine. But.. The thought of having to watch you living without me by your side, taking another male as your lover. I felt that fate was really cruel."

Guilt overwhelmed me when he spoke of his feelings. "Kyo-chan. I- After so long, I really don't know if I still feel the same.."

"..I know." Kyo shifted his body so that he could lay on his side, a bitter smile on his face. "This painful truth.. I know. That's why I want to have another chance. To slowly earn back your heart. Give us a chance and let us start anew again."

I looked at him then looked away, my mind filled with worries._
'Should I take this risk? Will we be happy? In future, what will it bring? Maybe...if I can have a miracle..'_

I took in a shaky breath and breathed out to calm my nerves. "I w-"

"Yui!" The sight of Sanosuke filled my vision. I blinked then stood up to face him, Kyo following after.

"Sano? How did you find me?"

"Heh. We meet again eh, Harada Sanosuke." Kyo's voice became much more cocky, casually slinging his arm over my shoulders. A chill went down my spine when I felt an irritated glare focusing on Kyo's arm.

_ 'They really aren't on good terms huh?' _ I sweatdropped, feeling rather uneasy being between them.

"Now now, lets cool down. Sano-kun?"

"Right. For now there's no time for questions. Something happened back in the headquarters while you were gone with** him**." For a moment, the redhead had a look of annoyance directed towards Kyo. "Hijikata-san gave out an order to bring you back as soon as possible. I will fill you in with the details as we make our way back but for now, lets go."

Nodding, I walked towards my slightly dryer clothes and wore them on. "Give me a few minutes with Kyo alone, please."

Sanosuke looked as though as he was going to disapprove but then stiffly nodded and left me and Kyo to have our own space.
>I walked closer to Kyo then stopped inches away from him. Staring into his mesmerizing eyes for a few moments, I then held his hand and tiptoed, kissing him on the lips gently.<p>

"Lets give this story of ours a happy ending, alright?" Warmth spread throughout my body as I watched his face slowly brighten up at my words. Kyo then hugged me tightly, happiness shown visibly on his face.

The hug lasted for a short while before he let go of me, coughing slightly to regain his composure. The indigo haired male held out his hand, flashing a charming smile.

"Lets start over. The name's Shiranui Kyo." My mouth twitched at his intentions and held out my hand to shake his, playing along.

"I used to be Oguri Yui. I'm currently known as Nagakura Yui. My name is **Oguri Nagakura Yui."

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~
**

>"What did you mean by that? You guys were restrained by..nothing?"<p>

"Instead of the term 'nothing', it is more of invisible chains. Because before we started to be immobile, that guy had opened his mouth, a piercing sound travelling to our ears. It's most probably because of the frequency." The redhead tried to explain the situation he himself wasn't so sure either. The mahogany haired female nodded in understanding.

"Alright. But.. No one was hurt?" Yui cocked her head to the side. "The last time he came, two of the men were brutally killed."

"We have no idea what kind of **game** he is playing." Sanosuke sighed in frustration. "He just came in and claimed to be harmless, provide us with vague information, then attacking us and leaving right after with no injuries."

"Having that said," Sanosuke furrowed his eyebrows. "A few hours after we recovered from his attack and had been checked by Yamazaki-kun, Shinpachi started to hiss in pain."

"What? Shinpachi..What happened to him?!" The female stopped in her tracks and immediately pulled onto the golden orb'd male's sleeve, worry etched onto her face.

"On his left hand, there are strange markings tattooed on, veins bulging out considerably. Right now, Sannan-san is tasked to find out the source and the implications." Sanosuke paused and gently pressed his large hand on top of the worried girl's head. "Don't worry. Shinpachi is strong. He won't go down so easily. Right now our main concern is to bring you back as quickly as possible. You're the ultimate target while the rest of us are the side show. Whoever is after you, also knows us and bears a heavy grudge against us. It's gonna be a rocky path we're taking."

Yui chewed on her lower lip, pressure and stress starting to weigh heavily on top of her shoulders. "Lets make our way back to the headquarters. We will investigate more later. Right now we have nothing to make a head or tail of this situation. We just need to trust our superiors' judgements and orders for now."

Nodding, the duo continued to make their way back as stealthily as possible.

* * *

><p>Shinpachi sat on the veranda, his left arm stretched out then clenching and unclenching his hand. His hand didn't really hurt as much as during the beginning. He then withdrew his hand back, his blue eyes flickering over at the markings.<p>

Was it karma for not telling Yui the truth? Or is there more to this? His parents had never elaborated much on the relations between the two families. Only the knowledge that they did not hesitate to raise Yui up and protect her to the best they could. Was there another secret beyond his knowledge?

_ 'To not know everything, it is scary. But to know everything and be unable to do a single thing, that is truly frightening. Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing. The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.' _The brunette recited off in his head.

At the corner of his eyes, he noticed Souji had returned by himself. "Oi Souji. No sight of her at all?"

"Nope." Souji ruffled his hair with a casual grin. "She is rather troublesome eh? It ticks me off." Shinpachi just laughed it off. Though Souji's words and actions says that, it was clear that he was exhausted from searching the entire town for her.

Shinpachi stood up and pat the green eyed male on the back. "You did your best trying to find her. There's still Sanosuke left. He'll bring her back."

"So how's that thing?" Souji cocked his eyebrows. "Anything strange?"

The bigger sized male just shook his head in response. "I-"

Shin-nii!

Turning around, Shinpachi only got a glimpse of pink before he was tackled down onto the floor. Sanosuke just casually strolled in, nodding at Souji as a greeting.

"So where did you find this _brat_?"

"By accident. I got lost for a moment in the woods and there I found her. ...with _**Shiranui Kyo**_."

"Oh? My what rendezvous she had. It's not even night time yet." Souji gave a Cheshire like smirk.

"..seriously,Souji?"

"Shin-nii.." The girl mumbled against the crook of her adopted brother's neck. Hearing her affectionate name for him, Shinpachi just gently smiled and pat her head softly.

"I'm sorry for lying to you. I was selfish for wanting you to be by my side forever." He apologized softly. Yui just shook her head at his words then propped herself up to make eye contact.

"I'm not angry. In fact, I'm thankful to you and... Dad and mom." Yui paused momentarily before grabbing his left arm as gently as possible. "Are you okay? Sano-kun told me what had happened. Does it hurt? Are you in pain right now?"

"I'm fine, imouto. Sannan-san is checking things out for now and Chizuru-chan had been giving me weird tasting potions to ease the earlier pain. Now it doesn't hurt at all."

A sigh of relief could be heard as the female just hugged her brother close. "Thank goodness.. I wouldn't know what to do without you."

Meanwhile, a man watched the scene, a sickening grin etched on his face. _'Go ahead and enjoy yourself to the best you can, Oguri Yui. It's gonna get much worse.'_

* * *

><p>*"I used to be Oguri Yui. I'm currently known as Nagakura Yui. My name is Oguri Nagakura Yui."_ âŽ; I would like to elaborate on this part. Originally Yui is known as Oguri Yui. But after the incident and being adopted by Shinpachi's parents, she was then known as Nagakura Yui. Hence the part "I used to be Oguri Yui. I'm currently known as Nagakura Yui." The last sentence probably is more confusing when she said what her name is. The reason why she said her name is Oguri Nagakura Yui is because like mentioned before, she was an Oguri and currently known as a Nagakura, both time periods when she was known differently were equally precious to her. By choosing a certain last name, it would mean that she is giving up on one of her identity and the memories shared with it. Because of that, she then combined both last names together and hence her name is Oguri Nagakura Yui. Confusing? I agree. While trying to explain this part, I got myself in a whirl as well. But you'll kind of grasp onto the explanation after a while.

Please read, comment and heart!

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21. Eighteen 18

[Revised Version]

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY PLOT AND OCS!

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

I followed Sanosuke on patrol as Souji went off with his group to investigate certain suspicious people loitering around a tea house. The wind blew and I shivered. My back ached at the sudden cold wind,

rubbing the area where my spine is gently, coughing hoarsely at the same time. That was when my chest started to sting, causing me to stop in my tracks and double over.

"Yui!" Sanosuke's hand gently rub my back as I coughed erratically into a clean handkerchief, the familiar metallic taste overpowering my taste buds. Beads of cold sweat formed on my forehead as I tried to calm the coughs down, taking slow and deep breathes.

'_Dammit._' I cursed internally after the series of coughs were over, immediately scrunching up the stained cloth in my fist, not even bothering to look at the red stain.

'You ok, my princess?' Sanosuke lightly wiped my forehead with his sleeve. I blushed at his kind gesture then nodding stiffly.

'Just the wind I suppose. It's getting much more chilly since winter is approaching." Easily coming up with an excuse, I stuck my fist into my side pocket and kept the handkerchief, at the same time noting the fearful yet hostile looks sent towards our unit by the citizens.

'Sano-kun, why are all these people so scared of us? I remembered that in the past, they weren't that scared like this.'

'Hmm? Ahhh... They hate our guts after the Ikedaya affair.'

"Huh. Why am I not surprised. Oh I know! Because they are **a bunch of ungrateful cattles to people who are saving their asses from getting slaughtered.** But no! They **willingly** go to the other side, waiting to be killed **obediently**." I rolled my eyes at the women who pulled their kids into their embrace and cover their eyes while they sent us terrified looks. Sanosuke smothered his laughter, keeping back his serious facade to maintain order.

'They are ungrateful because they are anti-Bakufu and pro-Choushuu. Kondou-san wouldn't like to hear what you have just said though. But I agree that they are pretty dumb.' To my right was my brother and his group.

'Ah, it's time for us to change our shifts already?" I nodded at the awaiting men in signal for them to return back to the headquarters without us. "Kondou-san is just too idealistic and kind to a fault that others will take advantage of him. I'm glad that ,even if I get irritated and freaked out by him, Hijikata-san is there."

"Always the critic."

'Shinpachi, did you run across anything strange?' Sanosuke's serious tone rang out. His facial features set into a frown and his hand tightly gripped onto his spear.

'Nope, at least not officially.' Shinpachi, with an equally serious look and tone, replied.

'Officially?' I raised my eyebrow for more details. "Do I _not_ know something again?"

'We had received a message while you had went to rest. Rumors has it that those Choushuu bastards are gathering in Kyoto.' His dark

eyebrows furrowed and I did the same. The image of me heartlessly slicing them sent me shudders.

'The cheek to still stay here and cause us trouble. I would much like to see them cry and weep at the sight of my blade.' I sneered at those cowardly bastards, pushing aside any other emotions.

'Well,that really sucks.' Sanosuke agreed with a nod.

'I'm sorry but could you guys go on ahead? There is something we have gotta take care of.' Sanosuke's voice awoke me from my own little world and I saw the men from Shinpachi's team bowed and left us alone.

'Eh?' Shinpachi and I exclaimed in confusion.

"Oi. Those are ****_my_**** men you are ordering. Stop taking mine!" Shinpachi whined at his best friend who just smoothly ignored him.

'Shinpachi,you are coming with us!' Sanosuke laughed lightly before turning to me. 'Come! Let's go now.'

'O-oh.' Shinpachi immediately shut up and the both of us scampered after him cluelessly.

He led us through a small dark alley and I started to feel the creeps.

'Oi Sano,where are you taking us to?' Shinpachi broke the awkward silence. "It better not be for you to take advantage of my Yui! I won't forgive you if you do!"

'Ha! Don't need to worry!' Sanosuke's cheerful voice sang and looked behind and sent me a playful wink. "I'm a gentleman. I won't do any of those ****indecent**** stuff that is playing on your head everyday."

"Oi! Shush..don't be so loud." Shinpachi nudged his best bud in the ribs roughly, resulting in the redhead to choke.

'There's no need to shush Sano-kun, Shin-nii. Everyone knows that you think indecently at any time.'

"Yui!"

Suddenly,the sound of the flutes and drums rang in my ears,the air was filled with a festive atmosphere.

'Isn't that..?' I widened my eyes at the crowd.

Lanterns were brightly lit up , casting a red-orange hue onto the area. The place was beautifully decorated, booths for games and snacks were fully packed. Graceful dancers swayed gently along with the Gion bayashi music, mesmerizing many to stop in their tracks to stare at them.

'Woah.' Was the only thought that came into my mind. I wasn't used to these festivals for a long time. The last time I went to a

festival was when I was with the Nagakura family.

'The Gion festival starts tomorrow. The Yamaboko parade should be a sight to see this year. Pretty impressive, isn't it?' Sanosuke commented with much pride in his tone.

'Mhmm.' I agreed. "The sight of the floats will be enchanting."

'*_The Gion Shouja bells resound,echoing the transience of all things. The colour of the shala tree's flowers reveal the fundamental truth that prosperity withers. The arrogant cannot persevere,like a mid-spring night's dream. Eventually even the great fall,like dust in the wind_*.' Shinpachi poetically recited. I stared at him cluelessly.

'I may not be good with poems but damn,is Hijikata's habit of writing *_weird* poems rubbing off on you? I never knew that you were a poetic type nor the bookworm.' I joked and he nudged me with indignation.

'The music just reminds me of the poem from 'The Heike Story',a story about military upraising. Don't blame me because you don't read. And yes, I do read!"

'I do read. I just don't understand why there is a need for poems when people just can't understand it.' I rolled my eyes and pouted. "And, really? I thought you were only interested in _reading_ girls." I sniggered at Shinpachi's offended expression.

I arched my back slightly, trying to ease the dull aching of my spine. At the same time, a chill went down my spine, shuddering slightly in response.

'No matter how *_great* your glory may be,eventually you will lose *_everything*'. Basically it means that _nothing lasts forever_.' Sanosuke looked down and explained the difficult poem.

'Nothing..lasts forever,huh?' I muttered softly under my breath and felt blood draining from my face. My stomach started to flip sickly and I covered my mouth and ran to a corner to throw up everything.

'Yui!' The both of them rushed over my side and I quickly wiped my mouth.

'I-I'm ok...' I coughed again,my stomach feeling sick at the pit. The metallic taste once again overpowering my taste buds, my face scrunched up in disgust.

'No,you are not.' Sanosuke countered me with much firmness. 'In the afternoon,you were having such fits too but not this badly. And look at your face! It's gone all deathly pale.'

'Yea! We had better bring you back to the quarters!' Shinpachi agreed firmly and I sighed before following them back quietly.

"You alright, Shinpachi? Is the mark acting up?"

"Nope. I'm fine. I'm more worried for Yui." I avoided his gaze that lingered on me, feeling disgusted with myself.

* * *

><p>The next day,everyone gathered in the large meeting room with curiosity.<p>

'I wonder what is this meeting about..' I wondered aloud and Souji just shrugged his shoulders.

'Just hope that it's good news,RaRa-chan.'

'Ahem!' Kondou coughed loudly and everyone quickly hushed themselves,attentively listening to what their leader was going to say.

>'The Aizu Clan has made an official request. They want us to fight against those Choushuu rebels.'

'Woah!' Everyone exclaimed with excitement.

'That's awesome!' Sanosuke exclaimed joyfully at the good news.

'The Aizu Clan has finally recognized our hard work.' Kondou pinched his nose dramatically.

'Sweet! The Shinsengumi finally get to take the main stage!' Heisuke whooped and pumped his fist in the air.

'What are you talking about? Heisuke,you are staying put since you haven't recovered fully yet.' Shinpachi mocked at Heisuke.

'No way!' Heisuke had a look of horror.

'I guess the injured should be good little boys and wait here.' Souji grinned, taking full pleasure in the teal eyed male's misery like a little piece of shit he is. Then again, I do the same.

'Don't worry,Hei-kun. We will tell you all the excitement after we returned.' I smirked and hi-fived Souji, both of us laughing cheekily.

'That goes to the both of you **too**,Okita-kun and Yui-kun.' Sannan interrupted.

'Eh!?' We looked at him in pure shock.

'Sadly,I shall be accompanying you.'

Altogether,Heisuke, Souji and I sighed sadly and each have had a crestfallen look.

'Yukimura-kun.' Kondou's voice boomed and I looked up in surprise.
'Would you mind going too?'

'Eh!? Chizuru!?' The three of us exclaimed again.

'I won't send you to the battlefield. But I could use your help in

delivering messages and tending to the wounded.'" Kondou ignored our comments.

'We won't force you to go since it will be dangerous.'" Hijikata said sternly though a hint of concern betrayed him. 'You may decide whether to go or to stay.'

'I...'" She turned and looked at the rest of us. 'I'll go if you think that I can be of service.'

Kondou nodded in approval and I could tell that Hijikata's eyes shone with pride and love. I shook my head. He was too obvious. And too much in love. Who am I to judge?

'Chizuru, work hard for us too!'" Heisuke cheered her on.

'Yes!'" She smiled brightly.

'You aren't going to play.'" Sannan interrupted cuttingly. 'Try not to get into everyone's way.'

'Y-yes...'" Chizuru's look of determination ,within a few seconds, shattered into a look of downcast.

'Alright! Let's hit'em with everything we've got!'" Shinpachi stood up agitatedly and declared proudly.

"_**Hold on, hold on, hold on!**_" Why is it that Shinpachi is allowed to go yet we can't!?" I huffed and crossed my arms across my chest, my eyebrows twitching in agitation.

"Because I trust that he is able to handle himself and stop when it is needed. Unlike you three, he is ****not**** hot headed." Hijikata replied on Kondou's behalf, daring me to rebuke his orders.

"Ha ha. That's the funniest comment I've heard in my entire life. Shinpachi not hot headed." I clucked my tongue in a critical tone, still sore that I'm unable to join but then relieved, at the same time, that I could have alone time by myself.

'You'd better kick at least 10 asses for me.'" I sulked for a minute before grinning and standing up with him. 'The Shinsengumi shall prove itself to everyone that we aren't useless as we seem! Go and kick their butts!'

Everyone stood up with their clenched fists pumped high in the air,cheering with excitement.

'Under the Imperial decree,the Shinsengumi will take the front line and protect Kyoto!'" Kondou shouted and everyone roared with enthusiasm,their fists high up in the air.

Looking at their vanishing backs,I could not help but to sigh in frustration yet again.

'Man,I really wanna go!'" Heisuke grumbled.

'Who doesn't?'" I sighed in agreement. "And really, hot headed? I demand a ****better**** explanation than that."

Souji chuckled in amusement at my comment before he was cut off by Sannan.

'At least you can return to the front line once your wounds heal. I, on the other hand...' He held onto his injured arm, his smiling face masking his sadness.

Heisuke noticed and got awkward while I just digested his words. Aren't I in the same case as him too? At least..He would still be able to walk and live normally while I become bedridden..

'Well, we should be good boys and rest up.' Souji broke the awkward air and suggested sensibly before nudging Heisuke hard in the ribs, turning away towards the headquarters.

'Yeah, we'd better go and rest for now.' I slapped his back hard and followed the reddish brown haired male quietly.

'What did you do that for, Souji and Yui!?' Heisuke yelped and complained loudly as he followed our hint.

Ignoring Heisuke, I just went and sit on the veranda, staring off into space.

'At least you would be able to return to the front line once your wounds heal. I, on the other hand..' _Sannan's last words reverberated in my head and sighed again.

'At least he is able to live like a *_normal_* person.. Unlike me who has to live in _torture_...' I muttered.

_ 'You were saying, RaRa-chan?' _

* * *

><p>Read, follow and review!
Sorry for the delay in writing this.. Adjusting to a new school is taking a toll on me.

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22. Nineteen 19

_ [Revised Version] _

I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY PLOT AND OCS!

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~

'At least he is able to live like a normal person.. Unlike me who has to live in torture...' The fair skinned female muttered.

'You were saying, RaRa-chan?'

The distracted female nearly jumped out of her skin at Souji's intrusion and glared at him momentarily, putting up the coldest look she could manage.

'What did you hear?' Yui demanded with a hostile tone, narrowing her pink eyes at the emerald eyed male.

'Nothing much. I just heard, 'At least he is able to live like a normal person'. Were you referring to Sannan-san?' Souji made himself comfortable besides Yui as she continued to eye him warily.

'Thank goodness he didn't hear the last part. But..you never know.' Yui just gave a simple nod, cautiously noting his every move and facial expressions.

He opened his mouth to speak again, only to get distracted by the sudden arrival of Yamazaki.

'Yamazaki-kun? Why are you here? Aren't you suppose to help out with the Shinsengumi?' Souji asked.

'I'll help them right after I do a quick check-up on Yui-san. Yui-san, would you mind taking me to your room?'

>Doubts filled her head, chewing on her lips at the high possibility that Yamazaki was to know of her secret.<p>

"Yui-san?" The said girl just nodded slowly, an inaudible sigh left her lips. She didn't expect it to be discovered so soon.

The door to her room shut. Yamazaki sat on the floor, laying out his medical equipment. Yui observed him at quite a distance away with a poker face, deciding not to reveal any emotions that would leak out her secret.

'I'm okay already. There's no need for a check-up.'

'I think that you know better. That you need help.' Yamazaki coolly eyed her back.

They both stared each other down intensely, neither backing down.

'I don't know what you are talking about. Either way, I've recovered and I am good. You should make your way to Kondou-san and the rest of the Shinsengumi.'

'You need to get treatment.'

"And you need to get stuff for your ear."

"Yui-san! This is serious. Please do not delay the course for your recovery any longer and cooperate."

'What for? This disease can never be cured. Even if I'm an oni. So why should I rest and eat medicine that doesn't work instead of making use of my very last energy to do something else?!' Yamazaki remained silent, watching the mahogany haired female taking deep breaths to calm herself down. Her face was masked in varying emotions: pain, despair, anger and yet, determination.

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~

"We are the Shinsengumi, under the patronage of the Lord of the Aizu Clan, Matsudaira Katamori." Kondou loudly and confidently announced their presence, each and every one of the soldiers stood upright and tall, filled with pride and loyalty. "By the official orders of the military commissioner of Kyoto, we have rushed here to join you."

"Official orders?" The other soldier's voice held a hint of mockery towards the Shinsengumi. "We have received no such directives."

Kondou's eyes widened and leaned forward, his voice laced with panic. "But, we have the official letter in writing. If I were to bring it to the higher rankings-

"Even if you did that, the response will remain the same." The other rudely cut in. "Now leave." He made a sloppy gesture towards the Shinsengumi, signaling them to leave immediately.
>"There is no need for Mibu Wolves here!"<p>

Chizuru's look of determination faltered at the harsh words. "How terrible. Such harsh words..
>A large hand was placed on her shoulder. Looking up, she saw Sanosuke looking down at her with kind eyes.<p>

"Well, this is the treatment we get."

"But.."

Sanosuke removed his hand from the girl's shoulder, feeling a cold death stare shot at him from his Lieutenant. He sweat dropped then refocused, his eyes narrowed seriously. "The Shoshidai are comprised of the Kuwana clan. If we recklessly create a ruckus here, we may disgrace Aizu."

Hajime walked up to his commander quietly, speaking by his ear. "Commander Kondou. It is useless to speak to the Shoshidai. Lets leave the magistrate's office and reconvene with the Aizu clan."

Kondou listened to Hajime's suggestion carefully. "Yes, that seems to be the only option. Shall we search for military commissioner's encampment?" He looked at the rest of the captains. Hijikata pondered momentarily then nodded silently in approval.

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

'Very well. But if you are feeling unwell, immediately come to me for treatment.' Yamazaki stood up and brushed his clothes lightly. I stared at the tatami mat, hearing his footsteps and the sound of my door being closed.
>I buried my head against my knees, my nails dug into my hakama pants.<p>

The slight sound of my door being slid opened rang in my ears.

"Leave, Souji." He stopped his movements.

"Oi, Yui-"

"I said, leave." I gritted my teeth, controlling my voice. "I know that you heard everything. Leave. Before I do anything else."

There was a long pause before I heard his footsteps back away, sliding the door shut.

I bit on my lips hard. My body trembled as tears fell onto the floor drop by drop.

"Why...does it have to be me..?"

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~

"Well then, the Shinsengumi will go towards the riverbank in the Ninth District."

"The Shinsengumi will be awaiting orders with us, the Aizu clan?" A displeased soldier looked at his fellow comrade who shook his head. "I never received such orders. My apologies. But could you inquire about this at our lord's visiting residence?"

Shinpachi clenched onto his fists, agitated. He stepped forward towards Kondou's side. "They were the ones who sent us here!"

>Kondou held his hand forward, signaling Shinpachi to stop.<p>

"Hey.." Kondou faced the Aizu soldiers. "I would like to speak to the superior of this encampment. Can I have you speak this to your superior?"

The Aizu soldier scrunched up his face in disgust and was about to retort back till he felt cold chills down his spine. All the members in the Shinsengumi stared him coldly, daring him to defy their leader's request.

* * *

><p>Shinpachi stared at his tattoo mark that hasn't shown any sign of disappearing.<p>

"These Aizu soldiers seems to be reservists rather than intended for defensive warfare." Gen commented while observing the other soldiers. "The Aizu soldiers that we had expected are probably guarding the Hamaguri gates instead."

"Then, the Shinsengumi are being treated as reservists too." Chizuru frowned slightly at the treatment.

Shinpachi 'tched'. "According to the message we have received from the headquarters, wasn't the situation a momentary strife?"

"When the circumstances demand it," Hajime calmly spoke out, his gaze

set on the campfire they had set up. "We shall immediately move into battle. That is all we can do now."

* * *

><p>The sound of canons being blasted filled the tense air. The cries of soldiers, the blood smeared across walls and floors.<p>

"You fools! Have you forgotten your task?" Bright blue eyes met electric purple ones.

Shinpachi smirked. "Hijikata-san, just for now, let me take charge of this unit. Lets go!"

He and the other men ran towards Mount Tenno, in chase of the defeated warriors.

As fast as their feet could take them, they caught sight of the defeated soldiers whom sat on the ground in a circle, ready to commit honorable suicide. The sight of the Shinsengumi got them scrambling up onto their feet, their blades held before them defensively.

"Do not let any of them get away!" Shinpachi commanded as his temporary unit yelled in acknowledgment, both groups immediately got into a round of battle.

In the midst of the chaos, Shinpachi's tattoo pulsed and glowed a faint red. He stopped his movement abruptly, his eyes turned glassy. As if under a spell, he slashed his own comrade.

A smirk graced the face of a sinister male.

* * *

><p>I finally got my laptop! Haha! Now it's much easier to type for all of you!<p>

Please read, comment and heart~

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23. Twenty 20

[Revised Version]

**I DO NOT OWN ANY HAKUOUKI CHARACTERS! I ONLY OWN MY OWN PLOT AND CHARACTERS!**

* * *

><p>~3rd POV~**

"Answer!" A loud bang on the table, tea swishing inside the cup. All the captains and leaders tensed up in the meeting room. Only a candle was lit in the darkness.

A certain shaggy haired brunette grasped onto his head tightly, shaking his head. Panicking at the lack of answers and the loss of words. His hair was disheveled, his blue eyes widened in trepidation.

Small trims of the memory flashed past his mind, blurry and confusing. Each time he tries to recall, it seemed as though he kept walking into a wall that separated him from the answer.

"I don't know.. I-I really don't know..." He muttered the same words repeatedly. On impulse, he leaned forward in a flash and slammed his hands onto the table, stunning the others into a defensive position with their blades unsheathed. "I-It wasn't me-.. I won't do such a thing! You got to believe me!"

"Back away from the commander, vice-commander and secretary-general." The calm indigo-haired male warned with a steady voice. The emerald eyed male narrowed his eyes at the fearful man, growling slightly in warning, the thought of the latter harming his beloved leader got him more hostile to his comrade. The unnerved male faltered and sat back shakily, his body as if in a daze.

"Shinpachi-kun. We would want to believe you as well." Kondou gently voiced out, trying his best to keep the situation under control so the others would keep calm as well and not frighten the interrogated male. "We just need you to recall the events and prove to us that it was not you who have done that."

"Being that we found you standing over the fallen bodies of our comrades and enemies, it is quite hard to say if you are a loyal soldier. Or maybe, you were actually a spy from the very beginning." Sannan casually tossed in another possibility, fueling up the tensed atmosphere even more.

Shinpachi was about to react towards the accusation when a smaller hand grabbed onto his firmly. Yui knelt beside her brother with an equally serious expression.

"I understand that we are all confused and stunned by the view we had seen earlier. Maybe I wasn't there to see the situation but from what I heard, I know it is indeed something worrying and I, too, am confused. I'm sure, Shinpachi-kun feels the same as we do since he is supposedly directly involved. I will not say that how you guys are reacting is a fault because it is a natural instinct to be on our guards. The Shinsengumi have many enemies. I do not blame Sannan-san for assuming the worse just to protect the rest. But," She held her stare against her leaders. "I believe that you have allowed fear to blind your foresight."

"Yui.." Shinpachi whispered, his eyes set upon his beloved sister who gripped onto her pants tightly, her pink eyes narrowing further.

"Because of this one event, it shadowed all his past efforts and contributions as a devoted follower of the Shinsengumi. He was there to support the group while all of you were struggling with past difficulties. He was the one who would take the lead when others wouldn't. Yes, he may be a very hot-tempered and brash male. But he is an absolutely sincere man who wouldn't fake his loyalty nor go back on his words!" Yui gradually raised her voice as she spoke to defend. "And he is definitely not one that will back stab his fellow comrades because he treats every single one of them as his own family, a valuable treasure in his life. He would even forsake his own family to commit his life to you! You have seen him, grew with him, worked with him, and know the very principles he goes by. How

can you now turn your blade towards him?"

Heisuke and Sanosuke absorbed Yui's speech quietly, and lowered their blades, ashamed. Souji and Hajime remained still. Kondou, Hijikata and Sannan remained quiet, eyeing the siblings.

"Yui..just stop.." Shinpachi held onto her hand. Instead, she grabbed onto his left hand and held it out, showing them the mark.

"Haven't you ever thought that this-..this mark could be the reason for whatever that happened? You thought of every single possibility against him. Yet, this possibility has never come across your mind?"

Kondou's face lit up at the new-found possibility and hummed, pleased to find a reason to go against the idea that Shinpachi was indeed a betrayer. He then waved his hand for Souji and Hajime to put down their weapons. "That's right! Sannan-san, you haven't found any ideas about the tattoo, right? So then, we can assume that Shinpachi-kun was under the influence of the tattoo."

"Is that even possible, Kondou-san?" Sannan replied in a skeptical tone. "How can a mere tattoo control a man's actions?"

"Like how are the existence of onis and rasetsus, and those beasts possible? Well, they exist. You saw, I saw, everyone here saw. There is no reason for you to shoot down a possibility like this." Yui retorted back steadily.

Hijikata held up his hand for silence. The conversation between Sannan and Yui was subdued.

"Sannan-san. Please look deeper into the origin of the tattoo and its effects. If it is really the case, it is extremely serious. Shinpachi." Hijikata stared straight at the tired looking male. "I hope you don't hate us for doubting you. Until it is proven, we will need to keep our minds open to all sorts of scenarios. For now, you are under a house arrest and suspended from your duties."

"..I understand." The said male solemnly replied. "I will follow your orders."

"Hijikata-san." Yui quietly spoke out. "If it's possible, may I bring Shinpachi out of the headquarters for a moment? After all that has happened, I would wish for him to clear his mind and rest well for the night afterwards. If he is actually a spy and attempts to run, I will cut him down if that is what you want."

Sannan was about to disagree, Hijikata calculating the consequences when Kondou smiled brightly and went ahead to nod in approval.

"Yes, I agree! It has been a hard time on you, Shinpachi-kun. Especially when we were so hard on you."

"Kondou-san!"

"Just come back for dinner, alright?" Yui nodded her head with a small smile of thankfulness etched on her face.

* * *

><p>The twinkling melody of water flowing gently rang in their ears. Some parts of the lake were slightly frozen due to the changing season. The siblings sat in the small rowing boat in silence, neither of them looking at each other.<p>

The female started to hum a familiar tune that the duo knew the best.

"_life is brief._
>fall in love, maidens
>before the crimson bloom
>fades from your lips
>before the tides of passion
>cool within you,
>for those of you
>who know no tomorrow
>life is brief
>fall in love, maidens
>before his hands
>take up his boat
>before the flush of his cheeks fades
>for those of you
>who will never return here
>life is brief
>fall in love, maidens
>before the boat drifts away
>on the waves
>before the hand resting on your shoulder
>becomes frail
>for those who will never
>be seen here again
>life is brief
>fall in love, maidens
>before the raven tresses
>begin to fade
>before the flame in your hearts
>flicker and die
>for those to whom today
>will never return_"_

Her voice melodiously rang, drifting along the winds. The older Nagakura closed his eyes, allowing the familiar lyrics to fill his mind and calm his nerves down. Silence returned. But instead of the initial stiff silence, it was more relaxed and peaceful.

"I.." Yui broke the silence, her eyes with a faraway look. "I will protect you. I know it wasn't your fault. I will..search even the depths of hell to drag out the mastermind behind all these."

Shinpachi's gaze lingered on his sister's form for a moment, then looking back at his reflection in the water. "I can't forgive myself for slashing down my comrades. Those that trusted me with their lives. I'm so disgusting.."

"You don't have to forgive yourself. There is no need for you to forgive yourself. I don't forgive you at all. For murdering those innocent men. But.." Shinpachi eyed Yui carefully. "Instead, carry that disgust for yourself, and channel it towards the man who is

responsible for this. Carry all those feelings and get revenge, on the behalf of our fallen comrades and our parents." Yui stared back into his light blue eyes steadily.

His lips curled up into a devilish smirk. "Ah."

* * *

><p>~Yui's POV~

"Do you think you have any idea of who it could be?" I looked at the male that sneaked into my room in the middle of the night. Chizuru and I no longer share a room. They managed to clear a room for me so I can have my own privacy as well.

"I have no idea who could be the enemy of your family. The Oguri's had always been well liked by other fellow onis. The Shinsengumi has too many enemies to write down, so it isn't surprising that they have someone after them." Kyo frowned slightly, his slender index finger tapped his chin thoughtfully.

"Is that so?.." I frowned as well, rubbing my temples in exasperation.

The both of us were flipping through pages of history books that were brought by Kyo, with the help of Amagiri. Open pages were spread out on the tatami mat as we sat cross legged, trying our hardest to find some clues.

"Ugh.. The idea of getting answers seems so bleak!" I groaned in frustration. How was it even possible that there is not a slightest clue left for us to find? That guy must have thought it out carefully, leaving no loopholes for us to tug onto.

Kyo chuckled slightly and flicked me on the forehead. I flinched and whined at the pain. "Come on. Where was the girl that was on fire a moment ago?"

"She's sleeping in an abyss of darkness." I replied monotonously, and kept a poker face.

"Idiot."

"Hey!" He snickered and ruffled my hair, a teasing grin on his face. I nudged him in the ribs with my elbow, earning an 'oof' from him.

"Focus." I grinned, and went back to concentrate in reading. Silence followed after, leaving behind the sound of pages flipping. It was soon interrupted by Kyo.

"You said that Nagakura Shinpachi suddenly got a tattoo on his left wrist?" I blinked, trying to process the image and nodded.

"Yeah. From what I heard, the same man who came to the headquarters and killed two of the men with the beasts, came and attacked them all of a sudden. After they recovered from the attack, Shin-nii suddenly felt pain on his left hand. By then, there was a tattoo on his skin." He nodded, his eyebrows furrowed.

"Left wrist, eh?"

"Do you know anything?" I gaze up at him expectantly. He looked back at me momentarily, slight hesitation in his eyes.

"I have a theory. Really, there's nothing to back up my claims." Kyo rubbed his nape, his eyes closed. "How does the tattoo look like?"

I closed my eyes, trying to vision the tattoo in my head. " It..It was a character. I can't decipher it.. But I know one of the strokes trailed upwards to his ring finger."

"Tsk. This is troublesome." Kyo sighed heavily, his turn to rub his temples. "Alright, this is just a speculation but it is highly likely that this is the cause of his actions."

"According to traditional beliefs, there is this particular vein named the 'Vena amoris' which means the vein of love. It was believed that this vein ran directly from the fourth finger of the left hand to the heart." He paused to snicker at my appalled expression when I heard the meaning of the name. "There were rumors that black magic users took advantage of the vein to manipulate their victims. Most of their victims were found with tattoo near or on the fourth finger of the left hand. It was said that through the tattoo, black magic is inserted into the body system, manipulating the emotions of the heart to cloud the victim's mind. It seems very likely that the one who did this to Nagakura Shinpachi is a powerful one if my suspicions are proven right."

"On the bright side, we can narrow down the search. That is, if it is traceable since it's a black magic user we are talking about."

"Well. Shit is going down."

* * *

><p>Read, comment, heart! Feel free to give back constructive criticism!<p>

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24. The note

**^Under construction]**

25. Koudou is back and Souji

**^Under construction]**

26. Kaoru back again?

**^Under construction]**

27. What will happen?

**^Under construction]**

28. Saitou back

**^Under construction]**

29. What have I become?

**^Under construction]**

30. Twist

**^Under construction]**

31. The change

**^Under construction]**

32. The cure and the alliance

**^Under construction]**

33. Soon we will meet

**^Under construction]**

34. What did ya say?

**^Under construction]**

35. Monsters

**^Under construction]**

36. Last goodbyes

**^Under construction]**

37. Author's Note

Hey guys! I've rewritten till Chapter 5 so do check it out!

Please give me feedback so I know how to improve and write better for all of you.

Thank you very much and I love all of you!

-Ayu

38. Important Update

****HI GUYS!****

I'm finally back as my finals are over!

I'll be updating this story every ****_Friday _**** so do keep a look out from now on!

Just to let you know chapter 9 is out for you to read.

Have a great day ahead!

-Ayu

End
file.